



## *Friends of The Trail Inc.*

# **2010 Annual General Meeting**

**Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010**

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## Executive Committee

Once again we have been busy! We began to realize just how busy when we totaled up the value of our activities for the past 2 years, and realized we had raised funds and contributed labour to the tune of \$180,000. This amount of production is significant for a community based Not-For-Profit trail developer, and could not have been accomplished without the energetic teamwork of our devoted volunteers.

### So what have we done?

NTC Project (Locks road to Bernard Long): The upgrade to the southern section of the Trail has been completed and from the numerous calls and comments received it is a huge success. It has provided a safe and enjoyable recreational venue for the residents of the area and even draws walkers and cyclists from the Trenton area. In September the Lower Trent Conservation Authority completed the surfacing of the connecting link and now we have a wheel chair accessible connection to the Bleasdell boulder. This was a joint project, which has extended the amount of useable trail and makes this section a destination for tourists and locals alike.

Surfacing: 95% of Ontario Realty Corporation managed section of the Lower Trent Trail has now been resurfaced, and this coupled with the soon to be completed Batawa waterline will mean that we will have 12 kilometers of continuous trail starting in Batawa and running through Frankford north to the Glen Ross road. The remaining 1 kilometer to the Lock at Glen Ross is owned by the city and recent discussions with the Head of Public Works make us hopeful that this final northern loop will be completed in 2011.

Batawa Waterline Section: FOTT was invited to participate in this project which when completed will supply the developed areas of Batawa plus the future development plans of Batawa Development Corporation with water from the Frankford Treatment station and provide cost savings by eliminating the Batawa Treatment plant. Most of the line runs on private land owned by BDC and they have stipulated that remediation of the dig will be done to standards commensurate with the rest of the Lower Trent Trail. We have lobbied the ORC on behalf of the City and the BDC to assist in resolving a routing problem and hope this will enable the project to be completed on time and at minimum costs

Benches and Gates: Now that we have completed the resurfacing of a large section of the Trail, almost 2 years ahead of schedule, we are looking to provide rest areas and interpretive signs for the trail users. We have had benches manufactured locally and have placed some at areas such as Station Park and Locks road. We will be purchasing more in the new year and hope to provide seating at suitable areas along the entire trail.

Hike Ontario Summit: We hosted the Hike Ontario Summit in November and had three days of activities, presentations, organized walks and a social evening. Once again the local community supported us with the City of Quinte West providing a venue for the presentations and lectures and The Batawa Ski Hill providing the use of their wonderful chalet for the Social activities. It was well attended by Hikers and Trail organizations from all over Ontario.



Surf and Turf: We worked with the 8 wing recreational staff to assist them in their annual fitness challenge, a grueling test with over 500 participants. The event was a huge success and they were very impressed with the portions of the Lower Trent Trail they used and look forward to increased participation next year.

MOU: We assisted the City of Quinte West in resolving an issue they had with providing secondary Emergency Services access to a dead end lane. By entering into an MOU between the Ontario Realty Corporation, the City and FOTT we have provided this access.

Batawa Water Front: We have continued to work with the Batawa Development Corporation and since the completion last Fall of the Business plan we have met with stakeholders and explored fund raising avenues with the goal of starting the on ground work in 2011. The City of Quinte West Public works department has been involved with the planning and is putting funds In their budget to complete some initial brushing and layout.

Golf Tournament: The Fourth Annual Golf Tournament was very successful and continues to be our major fundraiser for administrative funds. Funds that we need to pay the annual lease fee and Liability insurance. The numbers were down slightly this year but the local business community support was just extraordinary and continues to grow each year

Trillium Grant Application: We have submitted a major grant request to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, this will be used to start construction on the major staging area in Station Park and to resurface the bridges at Cold Creek with a steel mesh decking which will enhance safety and reduce the cost of maintenance the bridges.

The construction of the 1.5 KM section between Bernard Long road and Batawa is a priority and although we have not been successful in gaining access through Sonoco property we have an alternate route through BDC property and hope to start initial work on this section next year

We as a group, continue to be active in the local community, a fact that is highlighted by the events such as Trash Bash, National hiking day, and Earth hour walk that we organize each year. Individual members continue to volunteer with many other community organizations and can be found in such diverse places as the library board, the legion, local band, community partners and many others Our members overall level of involvement within this community has made Quinte region a better place to live and will leave a legacy for future generations.

Although we have had some challenges this year, as a group the Friends of the Trail have stayed the course and continue to produce a quality community based recreational facility. Thanks to all for your effort and support again this year

Respectfully submitted by Bill Gray  
President



## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has met four times since the 2009 Annual General Meeting and in addition has as a Board, participated in several official discussions with the Ontario Realty Corporation and the City of Quinte West.

It has been a challenging year as we continued to move forward with trail construction. We constantly receive words of praise and encouragement for the quality of this community asset, yet during the past year we had to spend a considerable amount of time trying to resolving a single issue.

The Board has had to reconcile our contractual commitments with the needs of the City of Quinte West to provide an alternate emergency access.

The situation was resolved when the Board authorized the President to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City and the Ontario Realty Corporation regarding emergency vehicle access to a dead-end road.

This has once again highlighted the need to remain flexible and to keep in mind, the trail as a whole when dealing with the various levels of government.

Two members of the Board have resigned since our last AGM and both vacancies will be open for nomination this term.

The members of the Friends of the Trail Inc. have done a fantastic job. The Board thanks you all for your efforts and although Autumn is a wonderful time to walk the Lower Trent Trail, Spring is just around the corner and 2011 is going to be a banner year.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Gray,  
President

## Maintenance

2009-2010 Was a banner year for construction as Tom Postma and his team oversaw the Federal Trails Grant that allowed us to complete a 2.6 Km section of trail including a new parking area and an access ramp to the Bleasdell Boulder Conservation area. This section marks the current southern terminus of the Lower Trent Trail and awaits the city's continuation of their Riverside trail system to link the conservation area and us to the Waterfront Trail.

Generous grants from the Parrot Foundation and Trenval BDC enabled us to match the federal funding, and provided the impetus to brush level and resurface two more sections between Howes and Glen Ross Roads and March Street and the start of the Batawa waterline. With these sections complete the northern section has nearly 10 km of contiguous trail and only awaits the city to complete its one kilometer at Glen Ross to connect us to the Locks and the Trent Severn waterway.

The Waterline, which runs under the Trail on a combination of ORC/FOTT and Batawa Development Corporation property will be completed by the end of October. Agreements between the three parties direct the resurfacing to be in accordance with the standards outlined in the Lower Trent Trail Management document. This means that by the end of October we will add another 2.5 kilometers to the trail and best of all a new staging area in the center of the community of Batawa.



All this progress requires an enormous amount of effort and energy from the entire group but when it comes to actual trail development the driving force behind the last few years of growth has been our Maintenance Chair Tom Postma. When asked what it takes to do his job Tom stated "A tractor, a chainsaw, an understanding wife and lots of time" all of which Tom has contributed freely. Tom, although still an active member of FOTT, has stepped down from the Maintenance Chair for a well-deserved break. He will be missed but assures me he is always available for advice.

The last work of the year saw us install benches at Station Park and Bleasdell Creek and three new safety barriers at various points on the trail. We are planning for next years construction season and hope to link up the southern section with Batawa and move forward with bridge resurfacing and Station Park.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Gray

## Memberships

Our Membership is steadily growing and has changed as follows:

### Membership Activity

Number of Members at the end of last fiscal year – As of June 30, 2009 .....	80
Number of New Members – July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.....	38
Number of Resignations - July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.....	3
Number of Paid-Up Members at end of Fiscal Year – June 30, 2010.....	100
Number of Renewals Outstanding for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.....	15

As of June 30, 2010 the Friends Of The Trail Inc. had 100 paid-up members.

The good news is that we had 4 new members join since our year end. So hopefully next year there will be even more growth.

Just for interest sake our membership history is 2004-2005 - 28, 2005-2006 - 46, 2006-2007 - 60, 2008-2009 - 80 and today we have 100 members. So even though we lose some for various reasons each year, we still show growth in our membership.

Other Membership Chair duties included issuing membership cards and receipts, compiling new member kits, preparing and circulating current membership mailing lists to the Executive, issuing a membership renewal notice, collecting renewals and recruiting new members.

Submitted by Tina Keay  
Membership Chairman



<b>Income Statement</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Donations				
Individual / Tri	\$ 145	\$ 187	\$ 335	\$ 328
Founders Clu	\$ 290	\$ 200	\$ 475	\$ 170
Membership	\$ 320	\$ 340	\$ 420	\$ 445
Fundraising	\$ 1,286	\$ 911	\$	\$ 889
Golf Tournament	\$ 6,321	\$ 8,023	\$ 10,201	\$ 9,707
Grant Revenue	\$ 968	\$ 6,918	\$ 15,706	\$ 65,546
Interest	\$ 1	\$ 3	\$ 4	\$ 2
Misc	\$ 56	\$ 24		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 9,387</b>	<b>\$ 16,606</b>	<b>\$ 27,141</b>	<b>\$ 76,889</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Trail Annual Access Fee		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Grant Expenditure	\$ 968	\$ 5,334	\$ 15,885	\$ 55,301
Trail Maintenance			\$ 1,627	\$ 3,258
Advertising	\$ 39			
Service Charges & Bank Fees	\$ 84	\$ 84	\$ 29	\$ 183
Misc				\$ 36
Postage & Delivery	\$ 16	\$ 73	\$ 156	\$ 174
Professional Services	\$ 25	\$ 23	\$ 4	\$ 158
Office	\$ 166	\$ 82	\$ 222	\$ 40
Membership		\$ 160	\$ 324	\$ 223
Insurance		\$ 1,417	\$ 1,890	\$ 1,850
Entertainment		\$ 29		
Event Expenditure		\$ 187	\$ 34	\$ 1,123
Golf Tournament	\$ 3,569	\$ 4,426	\$ 5,616	\$ 5,527
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,867</b>	<b>\$ 12,832</b>	<b>\$ 26,887</b>	<b>\$ 68,912</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,520</b>	<b>\$ 3,774</b>	<b>\$ 254</b>	<b>\$ 7,976</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>				
	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash & Bank Accounts				
BMO	\$ 5,017	\$ 7,034	\$ 8,903	\$ 14,263
BMO NTC				\$ 1,008
Cash on Hand	\$ 23	\$ 10	\$ 23	\$ 177
<b>Total Cash &amp; Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 5,040</b>	<b>\$ 7,044</b>	<b>\$ 8,926</b>	<b>\$ 15,448</b>
A/R			\$ 477	\$ 115
Prepd Ins Sept-May		\$ 1,733	\$ 1,733	\$ 1,733
Prepd Membership pd		\$ 80	\$ 83	\$ 90
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,040</b>	<b>\$ 8,857</b>	<b>\$ 11,219</b>	<b>\$ 17,386</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
A/P		\$ 30	\$ 2,128	\$ 308
Prepd Membership rec'd			\$ 10	\$ 23
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 30</b>	<b>\$ 2,138</b>	<b>\$ 328</b>
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>\$ 5,040</b>	<b>\$ 8,827</b>	<b>\$ 9,081</b>	<b>\$ 17,057</b>
<b>Liab = R/E</b>	<b>\$ 5,040</b>	<b>\$ 8,857</b>	<b>\$ 11,219</b>	<b>\$ 17,386</b>



## **Fundraising**

### **Grants**

Monies were received from our TD Grant submission. The Trillium Grant has been prepared, edited and submitted for the June 2010 deadline. A response is expected after October 2010. The NTC Grant monies were allocated as per the grant application and FOTT is awaiting the final payment.

### **Sustaining Membership**

We continue to receive support from our Founders Club and Trail Blazers. Members of FOTT have been exceedingly generous of in-kind donations and many hours of volunteer labour.

### **Product sales**

Under the Chairmanship of Lynn Gray another successful Flea Market and trunk sale was held in September.

### **Corporate Sponsors**

Tom Postma, former Trail Maintenance Chair, was responsible for co-coordinating with Scotts Haulage, Cooney Sand & Gravel, and Lafarge Canada Point Anne in providing FOTT with numerous in-kind donations of gravel and limestone screenings.

Special Events Our Fourth Annual Charity Golf Tournament with Dennis Hunter and Gloria Johnson as Co-Chairs was again a successful fund raiser. Proceeds from the tournament go to maintain the Lower Trent Trail, pay for Trail Insurance and the Trail Lease.

Guest MCs and celebrity golfers, Scotty Lalonde and Tommy James from the Rock 107 Radio Station, entertained us again during our prize presentations.

We are extremely grateful to McCurdy Pontiac GMC who for the 4<sup>th</sup> year sponsored our Hole-In-One contest with the donation of a 2010 Chevrolet Malibu; once again no golfer was able to win this prize. In addition to our Hole Sponsors, prizes valued at over \$7,500 were donated by FOTT members, local merchants, private individuals, companies and corporations. Plans are underway for the Fifth Annual Charity Golf Tournament to be held June 12, 2011 at Oak Hills, Stirling.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Johnson  
Fund Raising Chair

## **Station Park**

The Park remains as a rough diamond waiting for funds to start it's conversion into a natural park area with some wild / native flower and shrub planting areas, inter-connecting paths and new tree planting areas. Physical fitness/ play areas are being considered and would be located adjacent to the trail running north of Mill St. The parking area will be located where the gravel area now exists but concrete parking curbs will be installed to keep cars off the grass. New signage will identify the Park and Park rules.

There are a number of mature and fairly large soft maple trees on the west side of the grassy open areas that are now being knocked down by wind storms and because of the soil conditions, the roots of these trees do not go deeply into the soil and the trees easily topple over. These trees are a danger and some have to be trimmed or removed either by ourselves or contractor. Nearly all of the trees are soft maple and consideration should be given to planting new trees as the old ones are removed. Funds would have to be budgeted for this addition.

At present, the park is being maintained as a parking area for people using the trail. The grass is being cut on a regular basis, downed trees cut up and removed and a number of holes filled in and grass seed applied. The first park bench (donated by Ontario Power Generation) has been installed on the west side and will provide an attractive addition. There is no plan in place to provide for snow ploughing the parking area in winter.

Going forward, the Park lacks a water supply and this will be a major stumbling block to planting and landscaping the Park as planned. There are no adjacent municipal fire hydrants so a water source would have to be a buried main connected to the water mains on the city streets.

Submitted by J.R. Keay  
Chair, Station Park

