

FRIENDS OF THE TRAIL INC. **ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011**

“Our vision to produce a ribbon of natural parkland stretching through the City of Quinte West, providing a public, non-motorized, year-round recreational destination, is alive and well,” reported Friends of the Trail Inc. Chair Bill Gray.

Bill noted that the past year has been both busy and rewarding with the massive tree planting effort to complete the Batawa water main project in May along with raising funds, re-surfacing bridges, brushing and surfacing trail and even organizing a walk or two.

FOTT was also invited to participate in studies such as the panel on the Future of the Trent Severn waterway and the Regional Tourist initiative.

“All of this was accomplished with the helpful and energetic hands of many volunteers,” said Gray, who expressed his thanks to all who made the year a success.

“We are now marking the end of the trail development phase,” observed Gray “Now we stand on the threshold of a new challenge, that of operating and maintaining the Lower Trent Trail as a functional recreational asset for the Quinte Region.”

BUSY YEAR FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The Trail Maintenance Committee completed a number of projects this year.

New tread safe steel decking was installed on both bridges at Cold Creek; trail re-surfacing was completed on the northern 3.5 km section and 1.5 km of Batawa Trail south of Plant Street was cleared and resurfaced.

Batawa Trail Restoration, in conjunction with the City of Quinte West, Batawa Development Corporation and local volunteers planted 3000 mixed hardwood and softwood seedlings along the stretch of trail disturbed by the water main installation.

Brush removal, grading, clearing of downed trees and grass cutting was also maintained.

STATION PARK PROJECT BEGINS

“With the design of the new community space completed by Heartland Landscape Architects, Station Park is now under development,” said Park Chair, Barry Montgomery.

During the fall, hazardous trees and vegetation will be removed, the activity pad site will be cleared and resurfaced with pea gravel, benches and bike stands will be installed, a parking area to include a designated handicapped area and an accessible walkway linking parking to trail will be completed.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH STEADY

“While we have had some resignations over the fiscal year, we are really pleased that we are continuing to attract new members,” reported Membership Chair, Tina Key.

At fiscal year end, FOTT had 103 members. “We are still waiting for some renewals to come in,” said Tina. She noted that an additional 10 new members have joined since year end.

A new membership brochure was also produced with the assistance of the Public Relations volunteers.

BANNER YEAR FOR FUNDRAISING

5th Annual Golf Tournament Held June 13, 2010

Good weather, outstanding support from sponsors and donors and enthusiastic golfers combined to make the 5th Annual Tournament a success. Co-chairs Gloria Johnson and Dennis Hunter reported that the event raised a net profit of \$3,897 despite having fewer golfers this year. Major Sponsor McCurdy's GMC, Trenton generously provided a 2011 Chevrolet Cruze as the Hole-in-One prize.

Trillium Grant - \$44,900

Union Gas Centennial Community Grant - \$1000

Flea Market & Tailgate Sale (Sept. 2010) - \$1,140

NEW FOCUS ON PUBLIC RELATIONS

“Shifting the focus from FOTT organization to the Lower Trent Trail proved to be a successful

strategy”, reported Public Relations Chair, Donna Endicott.

The new Public Relations Committee, formerly the Media Relations Committee prepared a total of 12 press releases with more than 30 articles mentioning the trail published in the various local media.

Up-coming events were promoted through local magazines and publications as well as through Volunteer Information Quinte.

The plan to refresh and up-date the FOTT Website was successfully completed by volunteer, Nelsa Tinco.

A major project the past year has been to develop a Lower Trent Trail brochure to replace the former trail fact sheet.

The new brochure includes a map, the trail route and features, as well as seasonal photos of the trail. The brochure also includes information about FOTT and a donation form.

NEW PROVINCIAL MANAGERS

The provincial manager for the Lower Trent Trail, the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) was renamed and reorganized in 2011 to the Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation. It has also contracted C.B. Richard Ellis, a global property management corporation to function as the day to day manager of all Ontario Government properties.

ACTIVITIES ON THE TRAIL

Friends of the Trail Inc. continued to sponsor a number of annual activities on the trail this past year.

The annual trail clean-up was done in conjunction with the Quinte West Trash Bash; a Candlelight Walk was held to mark Earth Hour; and a 5 km and 10 km walk was held to celebrate International Hiking Day.

The 8 Wing annual Surf and Turf was happy to be able to utilize part of the Lower Trent Trail again for their event.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011

President:

Bill Gray

Vice President:

Gloria Johnson

Secretary:

Michael Davis

Treasurer:

Jane McCullagh

Members at Large:

Donna Endicott

Maria Luja

Barry Montgomery

Robina Wood

Honourary Member:

Maria Heissler

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010-2011

Chair: Bill Gray

Vice Chair: Gloria Johnson

Secretary: Michael Davis

Treasurer: Jane McCullagh

Membership Chair: Tina Keay

Public Relations Chair: Donna Endicott

Trail Maintenance Chair: vacant

Fundraising Chair: vacant

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