

FRIENDS OF THE TRAIL INC.
ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

The days of walking on the trail and not meeting another sole have passed and we anticipate a continued increase of trail users as the word spreads of this wonderful recreational facility. We are the longest trail in the area and as we continue to work with other stakeholders toward the addition of loops and special use connections we anticipate even more community participation in the Lower Trent Trail

The transition to a maintenance based organization has taken place. The only major item remaining on our master plan is to complete a link to the southern section and although this originally was our major project for 2012, we were unable to obtain Sonoco approval for access to their property. We have instead obtained approval from Batawa Development Corporation for an alternate route and expect to formalize the MOU shortly. The recently purchased flail mower has improved ease of trail shoulder maintenance and with the installation of operable gates at all vehicle restriction points we expect to be able to increase this activity in 2013. A quiet year compared to previous years but just as significant as we move forward with a new 5 year lease and an established trail for the use of our community.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Hello, fellow members.

Before I started this report I was going over some trail reports going back as far as Nov. 2007, That is when we started the Lower Trent Trail, with the brushing, grading and gravelling of the section between Cold Creek and Huffman Road

The Trail and it's Friends have come a long way since then. There are still some issues to be resolved with the connecting the lower section but we continue to work on them and anticipate starting construction of this

link the spring of 2013.

With the constant heat and high humidity this summer we were fortunate to not have a lot of construction scheduled. Routine maintenance was conducted and we used the recently acquired offset Flail Mower for trimming the trail sides in conjunction with some minor brushing and grading. Once the weather cooled down we had a couple of work parties to remove the stationary vehicle impediments and replace them with operable gates. This has improved the safety of the trail and allowed for easier access for our maintenance equipment.

We have acquired 8 new benches and have started installation with the first four being placed at scenic spots along the section between N Trent Street and Glenn Ross rd. In addition the information signs have been installed at road crossings indicating the name of the road and the direction to Station Park etc.

We have incurred vandalism on the trail this summer with the removal of safety signs and posts at Howes and Hearn's roads. In addition to the \$600 cost of replacement the signs removal constitutes a safety issue for which the OPP have expressed concern. The City has been very tardy in meeting their obligation to refurbish the section of trail north of Hoods Lane that is covered by our MOU; they have finally started the resurfacing this week and hope to finish shortly.

STATION PARK PROJECT

Station park development is well underway with the removal of hazardous trees last fall we were able to construct a parking area, pathways and resurface the open spaces. The park design and construction was directed by Barry Montgomery who although remaining a member and ardent supporter has moved out of the area and given up the reins. A hardy thanks to Barry for this excellent job.

This summer saw Shelley Nicholas and her extended family from across Canada come together to construct the new flowerbeds, they have also volunteered to plant and maintain the beds this spring. We have received a donation from the Frankford Lions club to purchase a memorial bench for the park. The Park has truly become a functional Community Space, come out and use it.

MEMBERSHIP STEADY

Membership has remained relatively stable at 105. This number fluctuates as logistics of collecting dues etc and our June 30th year end tend to raise the question of actual and paid up members. The good news is we continue to receive memberships from new trail users and have added to our numbers, individuals from across Canada and around the World. We are working on simplifying the collection of dues and are open to any suggestions that would reduce the requirement to annually contact individual members.

ACTIVITIES ON THE TRAIL

This year saw us continue with our annual staples such as Trash Bash and Earth Hour however with the improvements in trail surfacing and Station Park we have had several events staged by other community organizations. These have ranged from Yard sales in support of the new Frankford Youth Center to a Huff and Stuff run in aid of the Learning Center. We will continue to support the use of the Trail for such events and look forward to increased partnerships in the future.

Fund Raising

Having completed the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant this spring we decided that a smaller project would be in order, so with a great amount of help from Beate Heissler we applied for funding to develop a community gardens in Station Park, unfortunately our application to the

Evergreen fund was unsuccessful but they advised us to apply again next year. This was also a year for surprises as we received an unsolicited donation of \$2000 from the Tyco Flow Control workers in Trenton. This funding is being applied to the completion of Station Park. The Annual flea Market and Tail Gate sale has again out paced previous years by raising over \$1200. A big thanks to all who donated items and participated and to Lynn Gray for organizing and keeping us smiling.

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2011-2012

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2011-2012

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Membership Chair: Tina Keay

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Trail Maintenance Chair: Tom Postma

Fundraising Chair: vacant

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