



Friends Of The Trail Inc.

Annual Report 2005 - 2006

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors has met three times since the AGM of 2005. The Board adopted by-laws in order to comply with Corporations Act R.S.O. 1990. This included, but was not limited to, elections of the directors, notice of meetings, and dissolution procedures. Also, the Board identified its prescribed duties as per the Act, objects of the Corporation, and function of the Board.

The Board made recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding necessary amendments to the Constitution, the Memorandum of Understanding with owners, and the application for charitable status.

Respectfully submitted: Maria Luja, President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The major focus of the past year has been to get the Management Report written and distributed.

Members of the FOTT contributed their time to write sections pertaining to the cultural, historic, demographic and economic aspects of it. We worked closely with Heartland Environmental Design to edit and finalize it. In order to cut costs, individual members copied, collated and put the Report together.

The Report was made possible by a grant from Trenval Business Development Corporation.

The unveiling of the Management Report was another major undertaking. This took place at City Hall in mid-April and was very well attended by owners and stakeholders. As a result we have had follow up meetings and correspondence with the City of Quinte West, Lower Trent Conservation, Ontario Realty Corporation, Batawa Development Corporation and Hydro One.

The Executive Committee developed a template for a Memorandum of Understanding. This took some time, as we wanted to ensure that the wording and intentions of the document met our objectives as a Corporation and our goals as an Executive Committee.

As indicated by Jim Beal from the MNR at last year's AGM, the MNR has returned responsibility for all trails to the Ontario Realty Corporation. This has presented some problems for us, as we had to develop a working relationship with a new set of people. The individual we were liaising with left in early May, so the process began again. We do have written permission to continue working on the trail until the end of the year on the 70 percent owned by the Province of Ontario.

Representatives from the FOTT have met again with the O.P.P. regarding enforcement issues and with M.P.P.s to discuss progress and obstacles.

We had a trail clean-up on earth day and worked with Celebration of Trails to sponsor a hike on National Hiking Day. Various other activities are included in the Committee Chairs' reports.

Although we don't seem to be moving forward as quickly as we think we should be, realistically we have accomplished a great deal this past year.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, as well as those who attend meetings regularly and take on specific tasks, as required for our various activities.

FUNDRAISING

Grants:

The Local Initiatives Program grant of \$2000, received from Trenval Development Corp. in August 2005 was allocated toward the cost of the production of a Management Report. Heartland Environmental Design was retained to produce the report at a fee of \$2300 plus GST of \$161.00 plus expenses. The completion date for the grant was January 31, 2006

A proposal for funding for a Lower Trent Trail Naturalization Project in the amount \$1486.00 was submitted in January 2006 to the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP) provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Despite repeated inquiries, no response on the grant application was received until August 2006. The application was approved for \$1000 to be spent by January 1, 2007. This grant will be used for the purchase of seedlings, trees and bushes to be planted along the trail, as well as for volunteer expenses associated with the planting project.

Initial work was begun on the Trillium Grant application with an intended submission date of November 2006. This grant application is on hold pending signed memorandum of understandings with the various trail owners. A file of researched potential grant and foundation funding sources has been compiled.

Sustaining Membership Program:

The TrailBlazer Contributors Program and Corporate Sponsorship Program was designed and approved.

Recognition for each level of contribution was established. This information was forwarded for inclusion on the web site.

A Founders Club mailing was sent to 40 members in January 2006 with a 60% response rate. A total of \$650.00 was raised. Founders Club members support Friends of the Trail Inc. with a minimum annual \$25.00 donation.

A donation form was designed, printed and also placed on the web site. Personal donations and in-kind donations have been received from members and friends.

Product Sales:

Two flea market sales were held, both under the leadership of Tina Keay. The Riverfest sale in May 2006 generated \$429.64 and the September 2006 sale raised \$421.81. Permission has been obtained to hold the 2007 May sale inside the arena.

Corporate Sponsors:

A pro bono web site development and management was donated by a professional firm. Web site design value is estimated at \$3000.

A proposal made to Copy Depot for printing sponsorship was declined.

A proposal for AEAP student placement was unsuccessful.

Storage space for flea market goods and a permanent storage room was donated by Batawa Development Corporation at the former Bata Shoe Factory.

A meeting was held with John Halloran, agent for the developer of the old stone building. Cost of developing and maintaining the trail section adjoining the proposed condominium property may be covered by the developer.

Service Clubs:

Presentations have been made to the Quinte Rotary Sunrise and the Trenton Rotary. Sponsorship packages were left with the clubs.

Special Events:

A proposal for a photo contest was developed, but put on hold until 2007.

A Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 2007.

Respectfully submitted: Donna Endicott, Chair

Press Liaison:

During its first year of existence, the Press Committee has issued four press releases. The first, regarding our first annual meeting, summarized the achievements of the previous eighteen months, including our incorporation as a non-profit organization and the successful application for a Trenval grant.

The second discussed FOTT's support of a Batawa location for Quinte West's proposed aquatic/recreation centre and explained the reasons for the support.

The third, released after the April 12, 2006 meeting with owners and stakeholders of the trail, unveiled FOTT's vision for the Lower Trent Trail and gave details regarding the newly issued Management Report.

The fourth press release titled WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT? was a call to the Quinte West community to increase our volunteer base.

All the press releases were published in the local press. The Community Press, the Shield, and the Trentonian have responded positively and given FOTT good coverage. For example, the presentation to City Council on May 15, 2006 appeared in the Community Press. Another presentation made to the Lower Trent Conservation Authority was covered by the Trentonian, photo included. FOTT also has been mentioned in two articles regarding the development of Batawa.

As well, we were asked to write an article to appear in Batawa Development Corporation's first community newsletter.

Recently, we have sent information for ads regarding FOTT's fundraising Flea Market, and our hike to mark the Celebration of Trails, to local radio stations, and to CoffeeNews. Information for the Flea Market was also sent to a local television station by a new member Gloria Johnson.

Reaching out to the radio and television media for advertisement of our events will continue in the future. The press committee was comprised initially of Julie Poole, Robina Wood, and Lilianne Denis, and more recently the latter two members.

Respectfully submitted: Lilianne Denis, Chair

Membership:

This year the membership figures reflect a changeover from a calendar year to our fiscal year of July 1 to June 30. Therefore we extended memberships to June 2006 instead of December 2005, although some members voluntarily renewed for the new fiscal year.

We have had one resignation, but also have obtained a number of new members. We will miss the support of Walter Pavlica who passed away on September 22, 2006.

Membership activity for the fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006:

- Start of fiscal year 28
- New members 19
- Resignations 1
- End of fiscal year 46

Other Membership Committee activities included issuing membership cards, 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. Membership with Information & Volunteer Quinte resulted in the referral of two new members.

Respectfully submitted: Tina Keay, Chair

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Tree Planting:

Enhancement of the trail began in November 2005 with a decision to proceed with tree planting in selected areas of the trail.

25 spruce seedlings 24 to 36 inches high donated by Marie Heissler were dug up and planted along the trail in the Hearn Road and Cold Creek areas by Bill Gray, Barbara and Dennis Hunter and Butch Nobes.

238 Norway spruce seedlings ordered from the LTRCA in November 2005 arrived in early April 2006.

Tree planting areas were marked with wooden stakes during the trail survey. Seedlings were planted in the staked areas by John and Tina Keay, Barbara and Dennis Hunter until concern with poison ivy curtailed the activity. Some seedlings remain for the October planting.

An application for a CFWIP grant prepared by Donna Endicott was submitted in January 2006 to the MNR, but no response was received until August. \$1000 has been approved for plants and supplies and must be expended by January 30, 2007. Research and project planning is underway for an October planting of trees and fruit bearing shrubs using the CFWIP grant allocation from the MNR.

Trail Development:

During April and May 2006 the trail was surveyed by Bill Gray and Dennis Hunter and the width marked with green and red paint to identify planting areas and bush removal requirements.

In August Maya Navrot arranged for her "Ranger" crew to spend a day doing light brushing on the trail.

During August and September, Bill Gray "bush hogged" the verges of the trail to cut back weeds and small trees to the desired trail width. Tom Postma has volunteered his diesel tractor to assist with minor grading in the worst areas of the trail.

Trail Clean-Up:

This year's trail clean-up was included with the Municipal "Trash Bash" held on April 22. Friends of the Trail Inc also joined in with the Batawa Trash Bash activities.

The City of Quinte West, Public Works department removed several garbage eyesores along the Frankford portion of the trail thanks to requests made by Julie Poole and Councillor Bob Lockwood.

Future Activity:

With the transfer of the provincially owned trail sections from the MNR to the ORC, the ORC gave us written approval to do minor brushing and grading along the trail. Vigorous pursuit of our goals with the ORC will be required for us to do the complete work described in our Management Report.