

Friends Of The Trail Inc.

2009 Annual General Meeting Fiscal year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009



LOWER TRENT TRAIL

History

The history of the trail is an integral part of the history of the river and its settlement. Settlements sprang up along the Trent River after the American Revolution; many of these settlements were built in Sidney Township. It was a long way for the farmers in the northern end of the township to get their produce to market and roads were notoriously poor. In addition there was a thriving lumber industry and the Trent River was a natural route for rafting timber. Since the Trent flows between Glen Rose and Trent Port was not the most hospitable of rivers, both the lumber industry and farmers were looking for other ways to get their goods to market. The Trent River was not the most hospitable of rivers, both the lumber industry and farmers were looking for other ways to get their goods to market. The Trent River was not the most hospitable of rivers, both the lumber industry and farmers were looking for other ways to get their goods to market. The Trent River was not the most hospitable of rivers, both the lumber industry and farmers were looking for other ways to get their goods to market.

The rail history of the area is brought with linked alternate and connections. Although the Grand Trunk Railway, connecting Montreal and Toronto opened in 1856 and went through Trenton Junction, it would take several years before private interests considered building rail lines northward into the settlements off the Grand Trunk Railway line. There were obstacles raised and contractors failed to build railroads throughout Hastings County. Many of these endeavors failed. It was the arrival of Prince Edward County who jump-started the railway building process. Looking for a connection to the Grand Trunk line at Trenton Junction, they formed the Prince Edward County Railway Company. A line to Trenton Junction was built. As with many railway projects during this time, financial problems occurred. In 1881 the line was sold to a group of Ontario farmers that renamed it the Central Ontario Railway Company (C.O.R.). In 1883 the company embarked on an expansion plan that included a railway from Trenton Junction to Cox Hill with a station in Frankford. It opened for traffic in 1884. In 1908 the Canadian Northern Railway purchased the C.O.R. property. It came under the ownership of the Canadian National Railway in 1923 and operated as such until abandoned in 1980. CN removed the rails in the late 1980's and sold sections of the 17.5 kilometers between Cox Hill and Glen Rose to several private companies and to Sidney Township. The Province of Ontario acquired the remainder (71%) in 1989. The property is currently in the hands of the Ontario Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal and was designated as a non-motorized recreational trail in 1989.

A group of local community minded citizens, Friends of the Trail Inc., formed a not-for-profit organization in 2005 to fulfil the requirements of the government study. Friends of the Trail Inc., has entered into an agreement with the Ontario Government to provide management for the development and maintenance of the Lower Trent Trail. We look forward to many years of enjoying the heritage and natural beauty of our community as together we build the Lower Trent Trail.

Managed and Developed by: Friends of the Trail Inc. Our Vision

The Lower Trent Trail will be an accessible asset which allows for preservation, enhancement and presentation of the natural environment while providing the public with a year-round multi-use, non-motorized recreational trail. Efforts will be made to conserve the corridor's diverse natural features and processes by minimizing human influences including structural, agricultural, sensitive and parking facilities. The trail will be developed to preserve and beautify the natural environment for the benefit of both wildlife and human populations. It will offer opportunities for public education and understanding of the natural, cultural and historic heritage. It will link rural and urban communities socially and economically. The trail will provide opportunities for outdoor physical activity and will also be a place for people from a busy and hectic world to find a place for people to slow down for contemplation and meditation.



Executive Committee

WOW! WHAT A YEAR! 2009 was a year of Herculean efforts by our members. Having constructed double the amount of trail anticipated, raised funds never thought of, assisted in community building activities and most importantly have provided a 7-kilometer accessible recreational non-motorized trail for the enjoyment of all members of the community.

The Friends of The Trail Inc. have, as with any organization, experienced the highs and lows of operating a non-profit business. Following strategic plans and maintaining momentum while dealing with lack of municipal support and other detractors has allowed the FOTT to grow as an organization and truly appreciate the backing received from local businesses, community and citizens of the Quinte region. No place is this support more evident than in the sponsors and participants of the Annual Golf Tournament, this year marked the third year of this major fundraiser and saw a 30% increase in funds.

To reiterate comments from last year, the completion of the Mill Street to Howes Road section has resulted in a vast increase in trail use including mobility-impaired individuals on scooters and wheelchairs who are all eager to share their praise for the work completed.



FOTT hosted hiking days, a Riverfest Fun Run and once again assisted with the 8 Wing Surf and Turf event. The increase in the number of events makes it necessary for FOTT to look for groups to partner with; groups that could use the Lower Trent Trail as their home trail to assist with events coordination and organization.

The Batawa Waterfront Project has moved into stage two with the presentation of the Final Report to the Stakeholders in September. The next phase involves solidifying agreements with the various stakeholders, fund raising and finalizing the construction details. This project has the potential to add the Riverfront dimension to the Lower Trent Trail and provide a wonderful recreational facility for the residents that live near the lower section of the trail.

The newest project is just underway; it involves the section between Lock Road and Bernard Long Road. As part of the NTC grant, work involves brushing, grading and resurfacing the 2.5 kilometer stretch in addition to refurbishing the bridge and constructing a path to join with the Bleasdel Boulder trails. This will start the southern trail and the FOTT will meet with Sonoco shortly to work on continuing the trail through their section and onto Batawa Development property.

With the non-construction period shortly approaching, a brief break will take place to develop next year's plan and to contemplate areas of funding.

Thanks to all for the tireless help, donation of time and materials and constant support.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Gray, President

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has met three times since the 2008 Annual General Meeting. The board defined emergency access to the LTT to mean only: That fire, police and ambulance services required for the purpose of safety and security of individuals and property in the performance of their legal duties. The Board reviewed the National Trails Coalition funding agreement and authorized the President and Vice-President, as agents to bind the corporation to this agreement.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Gray, President

Maintenance

The year end report 2007-2008 quoted that FOTT had achieved a milestone. This year the work done is beyond words having finished the trail within the village of Frankford thanks to a grant from Bayshore Credit Union.

A donation of \$1000 from Ontario Power Generation also helped complete the work. This outstanding work was completed in co-ordination with Scotts Haulage, Cooney Sand & Gravel, and LaFarge Canada Point Anne. These firms have been instrumental in providing FOTT with numerous in-kind donations and outstanding prices on gravel and limestone screenings enabling the completion of the Frankford section under budget.

Thanks to Dennis Hunter for making the Certificates of Appreciation to these generous organizations.

Another great company came on board this year with their helping hands program. Union Gas donated \$1,000 for materials used to finish one km of trail between Hearns Rd. and North Trent St.

A grant from the Kay Stafford Memorial Fund helped to complete the rest of the trail between Hearns Rd. and N. Trent St. The trail is now completed from Cold Creek Bridge to Howes Rd. The rest to Glen Ross is in walkable condition.

Overall the 2009 priorities have been exceeded with great accomplishments. Earth walk in April was again a big success as in previous years.

Finally, the bridge at cold creek is still a concern as boards have to be replaced periodically, but with future grants hopefully this can be accomplished.

Submitted by Tom Postma, Trail Maintenance Chair



Memberships

Members at June 30, 2008	66
New Members	23
Resignations	9
Paid-Up Members at end of Fiscal Year	80
Renewals Outstanding for Fiscal 2010	36

Membership is steadily growing. Lynn Gray has been doing such a great job of recruiting lately with 21 new members that joined after year end. Once membership renewals are in, there will be 101 paid-up members, a great start for 2010.

Submitted by Tina Keay, Membership Chairman

Fundraising

Grants - The past year has been extremely busy for fundraising. "The Donate Now" button on the FOTT website has been a valuable tool to receive donations and have income tax receipts issued immediately. Grant applications were made to the following (amounts awarded in brackets): McLean Foundation, Bayshore Credit Union Community Investment Fund (\$5,000), the John M. & Bernice Parrott Foundation, Kay Stafford Memorial Fund (\$2,000), Trenval Batawa Study (\$1,500), Trenval (\$9,800), Ontario Power Generation (\$1,000), Union Gas Community Connections (\$1,000), Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program, the National Trails Coalition Stimulus Program (\$108,250). In addition requests were made for matching funds for the NTC grant to the City of Quinte West, the John M & Bernice Parrott Foundation, the James Family, Mrs. Bata, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, and our membership base (\$190 to date).

Sustaining Membership - Continued support is provided by FOTT 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 Tina Keay another successful Flea Market was held in September with approximately \$700 in sales.

Special Events - The 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament with Donna Endicott as Chair was very successful. Funds surpassed last year's; \$4,521 will be used to further work on the trail. There was also an increase in numbers of golfers over last year. This year's guest MCs and celebrity golfers, Scotty Lalonde and Tommy James from Rock 107 Radio Station provided entertainment during the prize presentations. The FOTT is extremely grateful to McCurdy Pontiac GMC who again sponsored the Hole-In-One contest with the donation of a 2009 Pontiac G5. In addition there were 18 Hole Sponsors and over \$6,000 in prizes donated by FOTT members, local merchants, private individuals, companies and corporations. Plans are underway for the 4th Annual Golf Tournament to be held June 13, 2010.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Johnson, Fund Raising Chair



Financial

<u>Income Statement</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>
Revenue			
Donations			
Individual / Trailblazer	\$145	\$187	\$335
Founders Club	\$290	\$200	\$475
Membership	\$320	\$340	\$420
Fundraising	\$1,286	\$911	
Golf Tournament	\$6,321	\$8,023	\$10,201
Grant Revenue	\$968	\$6,918	\$15,706
Interest	\$1	\$3	\$4
Misc	\$56	\$24	
Total Revenue	\$9,387	\$16,606	\$27,141
Expenses			
Trail Annual Access Fee		\$1,000	\$1,000
Grant Expenditure	\$968	\$5,334	\$15,985
Trail Maintenance			\$1,627
Advertising	\$39		
Service Charges & Bank Fees	\$84	\$94	\$29
Misc			
Postage & Delivery	\$16	\$73	\$156
Professional Services	\$25	\$20	\$4
Office	\$166	\$82	\$222
Membership		\$160	\$324
Insurance		\$1,417	\$1,890
Entertainment		\$29	
Event Expenditure		\$197	\$34
Golf Tournament	\$3,569	\$4,426	\$5,616
Total Expenses	\$4,867	\$12,832	\$26,887
Net Income	\$4,520	\$3,774	\$254
<u>Balance Sheet</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>
Assets			
Cash & Bank Accounts			
BMO	\$5,017	\$7,034	\$8,903
Cash on Hand	\$23	\$10	\$23
Total Cash & Bank	\$5,040	\$7,044	\$8,926
A/R			\$477
Prepaid Ins Sept-May		\$1,733	\$1,733
Prepaid Membership pd		\$80	\$83
Total Assets	\$5,040	\$8,857	\$11,219
Liabilities			
A/P		\$30	\$2,128
Prepaid Membership rec'd			\$10
Total Liabilities		\$30	\$2,138
Retained Earnings	\$5,040	\$8,827	\$9,081
Liabilities = R/E	\$5,040	\$8,857	\$11,219

Unaudited statements.

Compiled by Jane McCullagh, CMA, Treasurer

