



Friends of the Trail Inc.

Friends of The Trail 2013 annual report.

This year started with the usual optimism and plans to finish the much desired southern connection and a hope that the summer would bring some new members to fill the vacant executive positions. As is the case when dealing with Mother Nature the best laid plans were temporarily set aside and our efforts were redirected to clean up after the Ice Storm and start work on the new Riverside loop.

A \$24,000 Grant from the Ministry of Environment enabled us to work with the City of Quinte West, Batawa Development Corporation, Lower Trent Conservation and several community volunteer organizations to enhance the shoreline along the Trent River and develop a recreational trail looped to the Lower Trent Trail. This project will be complete by the end of November.

The Trail was inspected from end to end with the surface found to be in good condition and suitable for handicap access. The grass banks were cut back with the Flail mower in early August and work groups then manually brushed sections that were showing the most vegetation encroachment. A problem with a blocked culvert was corrected with the removal of a beaver dam, the sound caused by the rush of released water has persuaded us to name the spot Beaver Falls.

The Wildflower Garden that was Sponsored by the Hastings Stewardship Council and Planted by the Batawa Development Corporation, and the residents of Batawa was completed in July The Garden is located at Perry drive on the Lower Trent Trail and provides an excellent entrance as you walk into this Green Community.

A large increase in Trail usage and the numerous favourable comments we have received, are proof that we are providing a positive impact on the community and we should be proud of what our group has accomplished.

Although we have received several new members the overall numbers remain stable at around 100. As always, collecting annual membership fees is a drawn out process and the number of paid-up members always lags behind, this could be an age thing for although we all have good intentions it sometimes slips our mind.

We are still waiting the results from several initiatives we have in place to revisit the Sonoco issue and the development of the southern connection. This delay is affecting the submission of any major grant requests for next year.

Another good year in the Trail Business, it is nice to see some of the new Federal and Provincial Health and Welfare initiatives and in Particular the Development of a Quinte West Active Transportation plan which includes the Lower Trent Trail.

I think we have a very positive future.

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