



Fall 2017

The View from Foley Mountain *

News from the Friends of Foley Mountain

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Friends of Foley Mountain Receive Two Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy Awards

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Rideau Canal's inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and in honour of Canada's 150th birthday, the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy presented its awards under the Rideau Corridor Recognition Awards Program for 2017. The presentation ceremony was held on October 6th, at The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls.

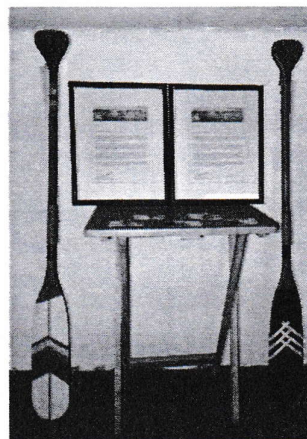
The goal of the awards program is to recognize, honour and promote good design, environmental stewardship, and economic development through public and youth engagement that serves to protect, enhance, promote, and celebrate the heritage value and sustainability of the Rideau Canal corridor.

The Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy was formed in 2009 to help preserve and enhance the qualities of the Rideau Canal that made it eligible for the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is comprised of representatives from all thirteen municipalities along the corridor, the three counties, two conservation authorities, the provincial government, the federal government, National Capital Commission, and First Nations.

The Friends of Foley Mountain were presented with two awards – the Environmental Stewardship Award of Merit and the Community Building Award of Merit. The Friends of Foley Mountain is a non-profit charitable organization which was established in 1996 by a group of Westport area residents. The Friends' mission is to preserve and maintain Foley Mountain Conservation Area in its natural state for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

The community of Westport and surrounding area has supported the Friends since its inception in 2007. Over this time frame, the Friends have raised over \$200,000.00 to support ongoing education programs and improved facilities at the Foley Mountain Conservation Area.

Rebecca Whitman, Park Supervisor, Foley Mountain Conservation Area was presented with an Honourable Mention in the Environmental Stewardship category.



* "The View From Foley Mountain" is used with permission of Peri McQuay, the author of the original book: "The View From Foley Mountain".

Message from the Chair

The Friends of Foley Mountain have had a very successful year of fundraising in support of the park's educational programs and towards our own missions of assisting Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) in maintaining and expanding the park's educational programs and to achieving the preservation and maintenance of Foley Mountain Conservation Area in its natural state for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations of visitors. Our success is a result of members paying their annual dues, substantial donations from local businesses such as Kudrinko's grocery store and Scheuermann Vineyard and Winery in Westport and Foodsmiths in Perth as well as a major unsolicited donation from an anonymous donor in addition to fundraising activities conducted by your Board of Directors. We are privileged to benefit from the support of the caring and generous community of Westport and area. I would like to thank all of you for your continued support.

This year FOFM decided to try a different fundraising initiative as our major fundraiser: a tapas dinner was held at the Scheuermann Vineyard and Winery in Westport in July. A silent auction and 50-50 draw were held in conjunction with the dinner and all together over \$5000 was raised. We have received lots of positive feedback and as a result of that feedback have decided to host another one next year. Thanks to Mike Fay and Carole Pickett for organizing the event, to the spouses and friends who helped with the food preparation, and to those who donated items to the silent auction. A complete thank you list can be found on the FOFM web site (friendsoffoley.ca). Plan on attending in 2018 as I can assure you that it will be an enjoyable evening with great food. (See photos from this year's event on page 4.)

In our spring newsletter, I mentioned that we established a Friends of Foley Mountain Face Book page. Your Director, Tony Cote, assumed the responsibility for setting it up and maintaining it. Not only does Tony post articles directly pertaining to Foley Mountain but he collects and posts articles obtained from various sources which he feels would be of interest to the Members. There are very interesting posts on the page. If you haven't already, check the page out (<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofFoleyMountain/>) and give it a "like". Tony is to be recognized by the Village of Westport as Volunteer of the Month for his continued work on this significant initiative.

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Rideau Canal's inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and in honour of Canada's 150th birthday, the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy presented its awards under the Rideau Corridor Recognition Awards Program for 2017. I am pleased to advise that the Friends of Foley Mountain were presented with two awards – the Environmental Stewardship Award of Merit and the Community Building Award of Merit. Rebecca Whitman, Park Supervisor, Foley Mountain Conservation Area was presented with the Environmental Stewardship Honourable Mention (see separate article on page 1).

The Friends manned a fundraising barbeque during the World Orienteering Championships which were held at Foley Mountain in August. We also hosted the "Doors Open" event at Foley Mountain in the same month.

We have a new mailing address: P.O. Box 5, Westport, On K0G 1X0.

This year two of our hard working Directors, Wendy Briggs-Jude and Cait Maloney, have decided to retire from the Board of Directors. The Board would like to thank them for their support and contributions over the years and wish them well in the future. The Board of Directors is composed of volunteers who are committed to achieving the Board's ongoing mandate by executing its pursuits. With these retirements, there are openings for additional Directors. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Board please contact me at r.a.struthers@live.com

On behalf of the Board, I wish you a joyous upcoming holiday season.

FOFM Chair: Rob Struthers

A Great Summer on the Mountain

Thanks to the Friends of Foley Mountain for helping to once again sponsor a summer Outdoor Education Interpreter at Foley Mountain Conservation Area. Jennie McManus, a Teacher Candidate at the University of Ottawa and cottager on Pike Lake, returned for her third year and was able to continue building on her skills as an outdoor educator. She was an important part of a very successful spring education program and full summer schedule of nature day camps and family nature programs.

Thanks also to the Friends of Foley Mountain for supporting visitor services by volunteering for the Township of Rideau Lakes Open Doors event on August 19 and 20, 2017. It was great to have both the Interpretive Centre and Silversides Outdoor Learning Center open for park visitors.

Fall Outdoor Education Programs

It is a busy fall season in the park this year with school groups coming up to Foley Mountain for nature-based programming, all thanks to the Friends of Foley Mountain. By subsidizing the transportation costs for students to get to Foley Mountain, we were able to provide an opportunity to explore in the forest and discover the magic of living creatures to fifteen classes, over 750 children. Our experiential, curriculum-based programs allow children to learn in an engaging environment with the freedom to develop independence, creativity, collaboration, problem-solving, fine motor skills, and critical thinking. It is great to be able to support future generations in their development and appreciation for the natural world.

Thanks to the Friends of Foley Mountain we will be purchasing new snowshoes to replenish some of our current stock that are in need of repair due to heavy use. They are a popular program request in the Winter season, and we're happy to be able to offer more children the experience of snowshoeing in a winter wonderland.

Get Your RVCA Annual Pass and Enjoy Foley Mountain Year Round

For only \$45 or free with a Friends of Foley Mountain membership of \$50 or more, you can have access to Foley Mountain for the whole calendar year! The conservation area is open year round and facilities are maintained throughout the winter. The trails are great for snowshoeing or just enjoying the winter sunshine!

Day (\$6/vehicle) or annual passes can be purchased at the automated pay machine just past the entrance to the park. For more information, contact leah.roberts@rvca.ca until February 2018 or 613-273-3255.

Friends of Foley Mountain

Statement of Operating Account

For the period Jan. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2016

<u>Revenue:</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Memberships	\$3,695	\$9,000
Grants & Donations	4,551	500
Bank Interest		100
Fund Raising (Tapas & BBQ)	9,103	3,000
Total	\$17,349	\$12,600
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Donations to RVCA		\$6,000
Teacher Top-Up		2,500
Special Projects		4,250
Advertising	360	500
Fund Raising	4,419	1,500
Animal Rentals	407	700
Office Supplies	288	350
Miscellaneous	74	150
Total:	\$5,548	\$15,950

Donations to RVCA and Teacher Top-Ups will be
made in November or December.

FOFM'S TAPAS EVENT

FOOD PREPARATION



ENJOYING THE EVENING

