



Fall 2009

The View from Foley Mountain *

News from the Friends of Foley Mountain

Box 244, Westport ON K0G 1X0

www.friendsoffoleymountain.ca

info@friendsoffoleymountain.ca

A Letter from the Chair

The Friends of Foley Mountain continue their support to preserve Foley Mountain Conservation Area in its natural state for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations. To accomplish this, the Board of Directors is focused on four key pursuits; (a) to raise funds in support of the operation of Foley Mountain Conservation Area, (b) to provide volunteers for assisting in the development and operation of educational programs and facilities, (c) to provide a vehicle for community input into the long-term protection of the Area and (d) to promote the preservation and use of the Area for educational and recreational purposes. These pursuits can only be accomplished through the generosity of our members and we thank all of you for your support.

The members of the Board of Directors extend their heartfelt thanks to a very generous Friend who anonymously donated the Signs and benches along the Mobility Trail.

This display was officially opened in May and has been enjoyed by visitors throughout the summer and fall. Many compliments have been received from visitors about the quality of the structures and the content of the signs.



As you read through this newsletter you will learn about programs and projects that are benefiting through your membership.

The Board of Directors is composed of volunteers who are committed to achieving the Board's ongoing mandate by executing its pursuits. Currently, there are openings for additional Directors. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Board please contact Sandy Cameron 613-374-1539 or Mike Fay 613-273-8578.

Once again, thank you for your contribution and for your ongoing support.

Sandy Cameron

Chair

FOFM Auction

The Friends of Foley Mountain Auction was held this summer at the Westport Legion. Thanks to our donors and those in attendance \$5,451.00 was raised to support the education programs at Foley Mountain Park. The auction team was led by Ruth Pedherney and included, Pat Brown, Mary Loucks and Carmel McCartney. Once again, they worked tirelessly to organize and execute a very successful event. We thank them for all of their hard work. Our special thanks to Terry Cowan for being auctioneer. His performance was not only instrumental in raising funds it also injected many moments of fun into the evening.

We're on the Web!

Find information about the Friends of Foley Mountain and updates at:

www.friendsoffoleymountain.ca

Our new e-mail address is:

info@friendsoffoleymountain.ca

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

'The View From Foley Mountain.'

**Friends of Foley Mountain
Statement of Revenue & Expenses
as at September 30, 2009**

Revenue:

Memberships	\$4900
Donations	655
Auction (net of expenses)	5451
Bank Interest	260
GST Rebate	152
TOTAL	\$11 418

Expenses:

Advertising & Promotion	\$1000
Educational	610
Administration	601
Miscellaneous	269
Office Supplies	125
TOTAL	\$2605

SURPLUS **\$8813**

**Rideau Trail Association
Carol Sing
December 11**

***Bring your flashlight
and join us for carol singing!***

The Rideau Trail Association has organized the fourth annual carol sing and hike at Foley Mountain park on Friday December 11.

We will meet at the Park entrance at 6:20 p.m., and go to Spy Rock, walking and singing 'all the way'.

For further information call 613-273-2082.

A Look Ahead

From the Friends of Foley Mountain Planning Committee

We reported in the last newsletter that our sights were set on four priorities that we continue to focus on:

Friends of Foley Mountain work to *enrich programming at Foley Mountain Conservation Area*. We continue to provide funds to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to purchase equipment and teaching aids for their children's interpretive program. Once again we funded the highly popular reptile and amphibian exhibit in the Children's Discovery Centre. We plan to continue these endeavours in 2010.

Our second priority is to *promote greater community involvement in the Foley Mountain Conservation Area*. To that end, the Friends

launched a series of "Wednesday Nights at Foley Mountain" that provided educational and entertainment events this past summer and fall. We received positive feedback from those who attended this year's programs and we are looking to provide similar events for next year.

The third priority involves working with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to *improve facilities in the park*. This past year saw the completion of the Mobility trail as the main project. This coming year, we will work on improving the trail system in the park in cooperation with the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve Trail crew. We are also working closely with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to help

implement their new management plan for the park. Specific projects will be identified early in 2010.

Last, but not least, we continue with our *fundraising* endeavours. We are now planning our 2010 main fundraising project which will again involve a raffle. This time we plan on allowing the lucky winning ticket holder to make their selection of a choice between a canoe or kayak. We will need help in selling tickets in the summer of 2010 so we will be contacting our members for assistance in selling tickets on the premise of "many hands make light work". Stay tuned for details in the spring newsletter.

News From the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Spring, summer, and fall at Foley Mountain Conservation Area have been busy as usual with a variety of activities. In addition to maintaining the park for regular recreational use, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) staff have also been working hard to deliver outdoor environmental education programs to local students as well as environmental programming throughout the summer months. As an ongoing project throughout this year, RVCA staff were also able to complete a review of the Foley Mountain Master Plan and prepare a management plan to guide programs and operations for this year and the future.

The outdoor environmental education program at Foley Mountain Conservation Area is carrying on with yet another successful year. Including the growing shoulder season programming over the winter and early spring, the program has already reached close to 2100



students and well over 300 supervising adults. The traditional spring program season was again very busy with two interpreters on staff to deliver experiential environmental education programs. The friends of Foley Mountain again assisted RVCA by sponsoring an application for federal funding and allocating additional funds towards hiring Marla Dagnone as a seasonal Outdoor Education Interpreter. Marla brought with her experience as a pre-service teacher in the Outdoor Education program at Queen's University and working with youth in a variety of settings.

Although the weather has been cool and wet, the fall education program is carrying on with many groups scheduled to visit throughout October. The second annual Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival was held at Foley Mountain on September 24th, 2009 where 126 students in grades 3 through 5 learned all about how important our water resources are. This is a free program for schools in the Rideau River watershed. It featured 15 water discovery stations that students and adult supervisors visited throughout the day. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Staff and local volunteers (including members of the Friends of Foley Mountain board of directors and Friends of the Tay Watershed) staffed the stations.

Although the summer weather was not as it usually is, it did not



stop tourists and local residents from visiting Foley Mountain to enjoy the trails, picnic areas, natural swimming area, and Interpretive Centre. The Foley Mountain Interpretive Centre, including the Children's Nature Discovery Centre, was again open

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FRIENDS OF FOLEY MOUNTAIN 2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please complete in ink)

Annual Member:	(\$25)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing Member:	(\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting Member:	(\$75)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining Member:	(\$100)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patron:	(\$200)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Member:	(\$25)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Sponsor:	(\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Patron:	(\$200)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: () _____

Email Address: _____

Prefer Email ☐

All members receive a tax receipt and at least two newsletters per year.

Patrons' names (unless otherwise requested) are placed on our Patrons Board at the Spy Rock Parking Lot.

Corporate Sponsors and Corporate Patrons receive framed membership certificates with annual seals to show renewal.

PLEASE NOTE: Membership does not include free access to Foley Mountain Conservation Area.

To purchase an RVCA Conservation Area 2010 Annual Pass please add \$25 to your membership fee.

Write your vehicle licence number(s) here:

This pass allows access to all five RVCA Conservation Areas.

Cheque or Money Order payable to:

Friends of Foley Mountain

Please send your form and payment to:

Friends of Foley Mountain

P.O. Box 244

Westport, ON K0G 1X0

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to the public on Saturdays and Sundays. Education staff offered family nature programs on Thursday and Saturday mornings that covered a variety of topics including pond ecology, orienteering, and habitats. Over 250 visitors participated in the program series.

The beginning of November will bring the start of one year of maternity leave for Area Supervisor, Rebecca Whitman. Starting April 1st, 2010, former Area Supervisor Barry McQuay will be filling in to ensure the continuation of the quality programming throughout the spring, summer, and fall. During the winter months, Foley Mountain will be maintained and programming provided by existing RVCA staff.

For questions about programs and activities at Foley Mountain Conservation Area, contact Kristy Giles at 1-800-267-3504 ext 1178 or kristy.giles@rvca.ca. You can also find information about Foley Mountain online at www.rvca.ca.

Join the Friends of Foley Mountain !

Your membership in the Friends of Foley Mountain is important to us and to the many families who enjoy and explore Foley Mountain Conservation Area each year. Through your donation to FOFM and membership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, you are contributing to improving the activities and programs offered to the public.

As a member and donor, you:

- are a member of the **Friends of Foley Mountain** for one year.
- will receive a bi-annual **FOFM** "A View from the Mountain" newsletter, usually Spring and Fall.
- will be invited to attend activities the **FOFM** hold throughout the year – watch the RVCA website and for posters throughout Westport and the community
- enjoy hiking, walking, snowshoeing through the Park
- support conservation activities, promote the protection of endangered species of plants and animals
- support the Children's Nature Discovery Centre.
- support programs for school children visiting the park to participate in educational conservation programs

To learn more about Membership in the Friends of Foley Mountain contact: Jocelyn Jones @ 613-273-8333