



Fall 2010

The View from Foley Mountain *

News from the Friends of Foley Mountain

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2010 Canoe Raffle



Canoe Raffle winner Jane Amacher from Pennsylvania with Friends of Foley Mountain Chair Mike Fay.

Photo by Margaret Brand

Save the Date!

Friends of Foley Mountain

AUCTION

FRIDAY

AUGUST 12

2011

We're on the Web!

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

www.friendsoffoleymountain.ca

Our 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.'

A Letter from the Chair

Ever wondered why a group of local volunteers dedicate their time and energy to the Friends of Foley Mountain?? Look at photos on this page.

It's all about the kids.

It's about teaching them about the animals and plants in their region in a fun and entertaining way. It's about giving them a memorable experience and preparing them to be good caretakers of their natural environment in the future.

Local residents and businesses help us in this mission by buying memberships to the Friends of Foley Mountain, contributing to our auctions, buying canoe raffle tickets, and making donations to our projects. Without this support, we couldn't raise the resources necessary to provide these experiences.

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) does a great job in providing the basic recreational facilities- the trails, Visitor Centre,

Spy Rock, Group Camping area- and protecting the natural environment of Foley Mountain Conservation Area. One of the key roles of the Friends of Foley Mountain is to enrich these basic services by providing funding necessary to run a year round interpretive program and to hire a summer interpreter to teach children and families; to buy teaching aids- microscopes, snowshoes, educational games; by renting live reptiles every summer to make a visit to the Children's Discovery Centre that much more interesting; and by volunteering for programs and putting on events at the park like the Parks Canada Players theatre presentation of "Ghosts and Echoes on the Rideau." Our partnership with the RVCA has the added benefit of leveraging their investments in the park that in turn bring tourists to the area and provide premium outdoor recreation facilities for local residents.

We had a very successful canoe/kayak raffle this summer that raised almost \$2500 for our programs. The winner of the raffle was Jane Amacher, a resident of Pennsylvania, and a Devil



Lake cottager. Stay tuned for our 2011 fund raiser that will once again feature our Community Auction to be held on August 12th.

Also on the horizon is the development of a new Outdoor Learning Centre at Foley Mountain that we are currently working on with the RVCA. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting project in 2011.

Finally, we ask for your continued support. Our revenues have declined over the past few years. Please renew your membership now for the 2011 calendar year through the membership application form in this newsletter. While you are at it, purchase an annual pass at a discounted rate and enjoy the park.

We can't do it without you-
Remember: It's about the kids....

Mike Fay, Chair



Friends of Foley Mountain—Financial Report *as at October 31, 2010*

Operating Account Balance\$ 7015

Account Payable (Dec. 31/10)\$ 10000

Shortfall.....\$ 2985

News From the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

The Spring Education program at Foley Mountain was enjoyable and successful with 1200 children enjoying eight different programs, including Pond Ecology, Insect Study and Amazing Animals. Thanks in part to the Friends of Foley Mountain's assistance, we were fortunate to be able to hire summer student Dave Cameron, who enthusiastically and capably assisted me in teaching, and throughout the summer, designed programs, meeting and helping the public and teaching.

One big addition has been the live garter and black rat snakes and painted and stinkpot turtles, which were paid for through the generosity of the Friends of Foley Mountain. These were a big hit with adults and children alike in both the teaching program and at the Interpretive Centre.

In July and August the Centre was open Saturdays, Sundays and holiday Mondays, with over three hundred and fifty people viewing the displays. Adults and children enjoyed the Children's Centre there, with its live reptiles, games and puppet shows.

Another Summer feature was the free Thursday and Saturday morning interpretive programs for the public. Ten different exciting programs, such as Geology, Tree Identification and How Animals Prepare for Winter were offered and attracted two hundred visitors, many of them children.

On September 30, the park was full of activity when the third annual Water Festival took place, with 180 children and their teachers visiting the fifteen different water stations, presented by volunteers, including four enthusiastic members of the Friends of Foley Mountain. Steady rainfall all day didn't prevent all

involved from having a wonderful and memorable learning experience. The bus fare for two Perth classes was paid through the generosity of the Friends of the Tay.

The Fall program is now in full swing, in spite of a number of rainy days. We are offering ten different highly popular programs, with 500 children presently booked in.

Both the campground and the Interpretive Centre have been put to good use, with youth groups camping, and also the Centre, with its beautiful setting, has been rented for ten High School retreats.

If you've visited the park lately, you may have noticed some of the exciting improvements that the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has been making this year. Two handicapped washrooms have been built at the Interpretive Centre. Thanks to a Federal infrastructure grant, the hill leading to the Centre was repaved. Also, platforms for viewing turtles and other pond

animals have been placed in two ponds, and a platform has been built to make pond ecology studies safer and more effective.

As someone who has been deeply involved in the park for 35 years, it has been a privilege to return to Foley Mountain as acting supervisor for five months while Area Supervisor Rebecca Whitman was on her maternity leave. In November, we will be welcoming her back, and I know you will join me in wishing her all the best as she cares for this wonderful park..

As you can see, your continuing involvement in helping Foley Mountain through the Friends of Foley Mountain makes a big difference and I encourage all of you to continue to contribute in any way you are able.

With my very good wishes,
Barry McQuay



Friends of Foley Mountain Membership Committee

A total of 126 memberships were sold for the 2010 year generating \$7600 for the Friends of Foley Mountain.

This membership revenue total includes 88 regular annual members who donated between \$25.00 to \$200.00 each, accounting for \$3750. In addition, 38 Corporate/Business members donated between \$25.00 to \$200.00 each for an additional \$3850.00

In the past, Corporate donors were given annual identification stickers to add to their certificates,

but recently our supplier has given up production of these stickers. We have now located a new supplier and the stickers will be provided for 2009 and 2010 as soon as possible.

Our membership trend shows that the numbers of individual members have been declining over the past 2 years. We encourage past and current members to continue to support our work in Foley Mountain Park, and to enjoy the facilities available.

Many thanks to those who continue to be faithful supporters.



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
- 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 (Membership Chair)