

Fall 2024

The View from Foley Mountain *

News from the Friends of Foley Mountain

Box 5, Westport, ON. K0G 1X0

www.friendsoffoley.ca

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

That certainly was a beautiful summer that held on with high temperatures well into October. Now for the breathtaking colours of a Canadian autumn that grace Foley Mountain Conservation Area. Such a spectacular time of the year. You will see from Rebecca's report that summer was busy as always at Foley Mountain, and that this lovely fall weather has also been very welcoming for park visitors.

The major administrative project undertaken by the Board was amending our Letters Patent and By Laws to be in accordance with Ontario Not For Profit Corporations Act. Sandy Cameron was responsible for this initiative, and I would like to thank him for his hard work.

The necessary amendments were outlined in a letter to current Members prior to the Annual General Meeting and were approved by the Members at the meeting on May 15th.

The Articles of Amendment were endorsed and certified by the Director/Registrar, Ministry of Public and Business Delivery on July 18, 2024.

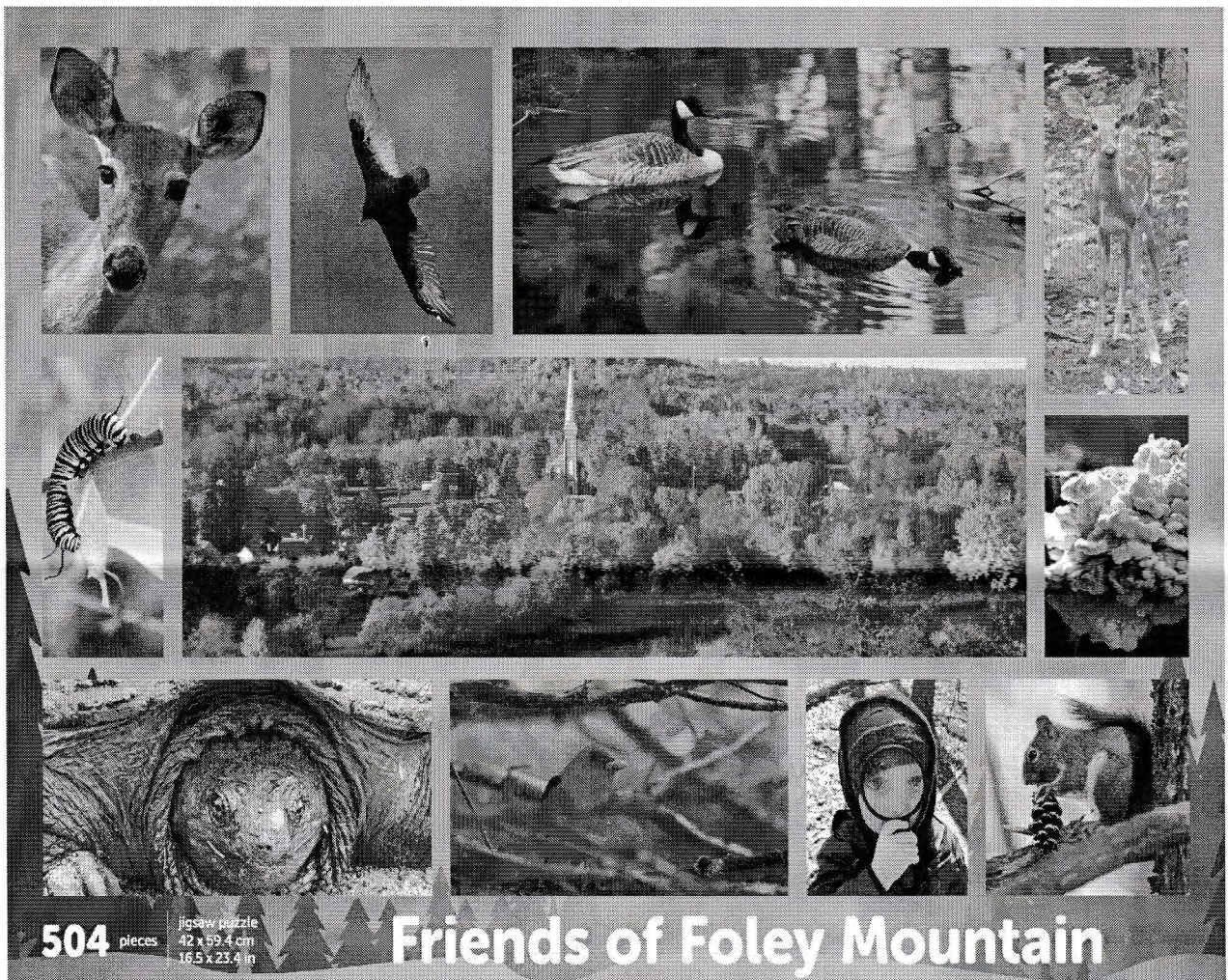
As required by the Ontario government, copies of the amended By-Laws were sent to the Charities Directorate, Canada Revenue Agency and the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee.

Of note in the amendments to the Letters Patent, now known as the Articles of Amendment, was Special Provision 'f' which states; "Directors shall be the only Members of the Corporation." As a consequence, the term "Friend" has replaced the term "Member" on the new application form. Maintaining the pre ONCA membership organizational structure would necessitate extensive communications and reporting requirements that are beyond the capacity of our volunteer board

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has raised its parking fees at the five conservation areas that charge fees. The daily rate is now \$8, and a monthly pass is \$55. Consequently, we have raised the fee for a contributing friend to \$55. Friends paying the \$55 fee or above will receive the yearly pass. This fee as well as the new terminology is reflected in the revised friends forms attached to this newsletter.

Later this fall we will be selling another jig saw puzzle as a fund raiser (pictured next page). The puzzle is produced by a company in Merrickville and is high quality. The puzzle will be available at various Westport locations – it would make an excellent Christmas present to those puzzle lovers on your list. More details will be published on our Facebook page.

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



Our thanks go out to the following Westport businesses that have generously sponsored the production of this puzzle – The Wood Fired Café, The Victorian, Upper Rideau Bed and Breakfast, Wags Whiskers & Wings, The Cove Inn and Tangle Garden. We would also like to thank Mel Shaw for his wonderful photographs that he permitted us to use.

In the May Annual General Meeting Sandy Cameron, Anna Chadwick, Mike Fay, Don Goodfellow, Peter Minnelli, Carole Pickett, Laurel Rudd, Robert Struthers, Louise Taillon were elected as Directors of Friends of Foley Mountain.

The Executive is made up of myself as President, Louise Taillon Vice President, Sandy Cameron Treasurer and Don Goodfellow Secretary.

Since the election Peter Minelli has resigned from the Board. I would like to thank Peter for his hard work and enthusiasm.

If the Friends of Foley Mountain is to remain viable, it is imperative that we increase the number of Board members. It is a volunteer organization with monthly meeting and participation in some mainly fund-raising activities. It is debatable on how much longer the organization can exist without new members. If you would like more information or are willing to join the Board, please contact me.

Rob Struthers
r.a.struthers@live.com

Friends of Foley Mountain

Statement of Operating Account – January 1, 2024 to October 15, 2024

<u>Revenue:</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Memberships	\$5,825	\$10,000
Grants and Donations	3,002	4,500
Fund Raising	2,055	3,500
Bank Interest		660
<u>Total:</u>	\$10,882	\$18,660
 <u>Expenses:</u>		
RVCA Children's Tuition Subsidies		\$2,500
Annual RVCA Contribution		6,000
Teacher Top-Up		2,500
Special Projects		2,000
Advertising and Promotion	\$880	550
Fund Raising		3,000
Office Supplies	68	550
Bank Charges		70
Miscellaneous	130	150
<u>Total:</u>	\$1,078	\$17,320

Having Friends is the cornerstone of fund raising. It's through your support that we can continue to meet the Friends of Foley Mountain's objectives that are included in its Articles of Incorporation. We are hopeful that you will continue to be a Friend of Foley Mountain. Thank you for your support.

Objectives in the Articles of Incorporation:

(a) to assist in the development and operation of educational programs and facilities at Foley Mountain Conservation Area and to provide volunteers for the above purpose.

(b) to promote the preservation and use of Foley Mountain Conservation Area for educational and recreational purposes.

Foley Mountain Fall Update – 2024

By: Rebecca Whitman

Welcome to fantastic fall at Foley Mountain! It has been a high paced couple of months on the mountain with lots of exciting things on the go. Here are some of the highlights:

- We have loved seeing so many people out in the park and enjoying all that Foley Mountain has to offer. Summer was busy as always but this lovely fall weather has also been very welcoming for park visitors. We are looking forward to a busy Thanksgiving weekend!
- We are again very fortunate to be benefiting from funding from the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation and Bogs to help schools with program and bussing fees for trips to Foley Mountain. Many days are fully booked between school visits and forest school!
- Our fall forest school program is well underway with four days of programming. We are so happy to offer these programs for children and families to adventure, play, and learn in the forests of Foley Mountain. Registration for winter programs will open soon!
- Our 2024 day camp season flew by with four sold out weeks! Our days were jam packed with exploring, play, creating, and more. We also added some public programs to the summer schedule to gauge interested in this type of format. We'll be reviewing the program over the winter to determine our plans for summer 2025!
- The facility rentals program continues to be well subscribed with many Girl Guides, Scouts, and community groups making great use of the Interpretive Centre and Group Camping areas for their spring and fall camps.

Coming up this winter:

- Look for a new winter themed book to be installed on the brand-new story book trail. You can find this installed along the Jack Herbert Mobility Trail beside the Foley Mountain Interpretive Centre.
- Registration for the winter session of the Foley Mountain Forest School will be open soon!
- Check out free Forest School Family Drop-in Programs thanks to the Township of Rideau Lakes on November 16 and December 21. Stay tuned for 2025 dates. Come play, explore, and learn in the forest! Children of all ages are welcome accompanied by a parent, guardian, or caregiver. Pre-registration is required. **Please visit <https://www.rvca.ca/outdoor-education/foley-mountain-ca/foley-mountain-forest-school> for registration information.**
- Education programs are available year-round! Schools and groups can book programs like Snowshoeing, Winter Wonderland, Outdoor Survival Skills, and more for a winter forest adventure.
- We still have availability for winter facility rentals at both the Interpretive Centre and group camping areas. For more information, availability, and booking information visit: <https://www.rvca.ca/conservation-areas/rent-a-facility/foley-mountain-ca>.
- Foley Mountain Conservation Area is open year-round! The trails are well travelled and great for walking and snowshoeing. Although outhouses are closed for winter, washrooms are available at the Education and Group Camping area and Interpretive Centre throughout the winter months. You may also sometimes find the gate closed at the fork leading down to the Interpretive Centre when conditions on the big hill are slippery. There is no better way to beat the winter blues than to get out and enjoy the outdoors!

Thank you!

RVCA would like to say a big thank you to the following groups and people for their generous support of Foley Mountain Conservation Area:

- The Friends of Foley Mountain for continuing to support our efforts to offer engaging nature-based programs.
- The Township of Rideau Lakes for sponsoring forest school drop-in programs.
- The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, Bogs, and the Don MacIver Fund for providing funding to help schools pay for bussing and programming at Foley Mountain.
- The Friends of Foley Mountain board of directors for their continued hard work and dedication.
- YOU! By purchasing a membership to the Friends of Foley Mountain, you are supporting outdoor education programs and projects that both connect and teach people about the natural world.

For more information about Foley Mountain Conservation Area, feel free to contact rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca or 613-273-3255. You can also visit us at www.rvca.ca and on Facebook for park updates.

The following history of the McCann farm was prepared by Dan Grunig for the 50th Anniversary of the Foley Mountain Conservation Area. Dan's wife, Joey, is related to Ted and Katie McCann. The McCann farmhouse is now the home of park superintendent Rebecca Whitman and her family.

Ted and Katie McCann Farm on Foley Mountain

The "McCann Farm" is on a 100 acre piece of property on the north half of Lot 11 Concession 5 (Township of North Crosby) on Foley Mountain.

In 1844, the Crown deeded land on the Mountain to the Canada Company, a company that was set up by the government in Upper Canada to encourage settlement. In 1889, the Canada Company sold Lot 11 Concession 5 (200 acres) to Declan Foley for \$500. One should remember that most of the Mountain burned in 1870 so it was no longer valuable for harvesting timber after the locals salvaged the burnt timber.

In 1897, Mary Foley (the widow of Declan Foley) sold the north half of Lot 11 Concession 5 to Mary O'Grady ("Spinster", as described in the land records) for \$300. The 1921 Census indicates that Mary O'Grady was living with her nephew and his wife, Michael and Mary Ellen O'Grady so the farm house must have been built some time between 1897 and 1921.

In 1931, Mary O'Grady sold the property to her nephew and his wife for \$2,300. In 1943, Mary Ellen O'Grady (widow of Michael) sold the property to Terence (Ted) McCann for \$1,700. Ted and his wife, Catherine (Katie) then sold their farm on Concession 8 to the Pollard Family and moved to the Lot 11 Concession 5 property.

In 1965, Ted and Katie McCann sold the property for \$3,500 to Jim and Gladys Kenney (Gladys is the daughter of Ted and Katie McCann) who carried on the farming activities.

In 1971, Jim and Gladys Kenney sold the farm to the RVCA for \$25,000.

Dan Grunig
March 18, 2023

