



The View from Foley Mountain *

News from the Friends of Foley Mountain

Box 5, Westport, ON, K0G 1X0

Spring 2024

www.friendsoffoley.ca

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Isn't it marvellous to have our spring birds back, to hear their songs and see them filling our skies. Open waters, flowers poking up and trees budding complete the picture. Spring is such a beautiful season!

Our Annual General Meeting has been scheduled for May 15, 7 pm at the Interpretive Centre, Foley Mountain Conservation Area. This is an important meeting as we need to discuss the impact of Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) on the Friends of Foley Mountain.

Friends of Foley Mountain (FOFM) was incorporated in January 1999 under Ontario's Corporation's Act. On October 19, 2021, Ontario's Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) was proclaimed. FOFM must modify its Letters Patent and By-Laws to conform with (ONCA).

FOFM's Letters Patent will be modified and become Articles of Incorporation. Its By-Laws will also be modified. We have until October 18, 2024, to review, update and file our Articles with Service Ontario and our Articles and By-Laws with Canada Revenue Agency and the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee. Until then, the rules in our original Letters Patent and By-Laws continue to be valid.

The Board of Directors will approve amendments to our Letters Patent and By-Laws and will table them at the Annual General Meeting on May 15, 2024, for a vote of approval by the Members.

Before the end of April, a copy of the amended Articles and By-Laws will be sent to Members in good standing (Members whose Membership has not expired), as well as information about the Voting process.

Your membership fees constitute the bulk of the funds collected by the Friends and as you can see from the Financial report on page 4, the Friends make an annual contribution of \$6000 to RVCA and \$2500 for Staff Support . I thought it appropriate to explain how these funds are used by RVCA. Shown below is a breakdown of the 2023 disbursements:

\$6000 Annual Contribution

- Story trail project management and development – staff time \$2305.10
- Purchase of GPS units to replace lost/non -functioning units - \$1181.50
- New high school program development, planning, implementation - \$1383.06
- Coordinating special guests, planning and training for forest school program - \$691.53
- Specialized program supplies, (painting workshop supplies, books, rain barrels for forest school and butterfly garden, swings etc.) - \$468.76

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

\$2500 FOFM Staff Support to RVCA

- \$2583.00

This amount funded RVCA for 12 days of work associated with program preparation and planning as well as park work.

Friends also receive requests from RVCA for tuition subsidies for the Forest School. These requests are decided on a case-by-case basis. A total of \$2178.08 was authorized by the Board. This sum included tuition subsidies for:

- 1 Winter kindergarten program,
- 1 Winter full day school age program
- 1 Spring kindergarten program
- 1 Spring full day school age program
- 2 Fall full day school age program

Over the past years, Friends of Foley Mountain has contributed to large and smaller projects as well as education support. Most of the costs for the large projects were funded by individual donors. These projects included:

- Accessible washrooms
- Mobility ramp at the Interpretive Centre. Flooring at the Interpretive Centre
- Financial assistance in moving Silversides from Perth to Foley Mountain
- Solar Power for Silversides
- Mobility Trail
- Education Centre in basement of Interpretive Centre

Examples of the small projects and education support are:

- Funding for Trail signs
- Purchase of Snowshoes
- Purchase of GPS units
- Purchase of Touchscreen Tablet PC's
- Busing subsidies
- Specialized education support supplies

Good News! We are working on a new puzzle that will feature iconic photos of Foley Mountain. We listened to your feedback from our last puzzle sale and we have sourced a puzzle of higher quality. Stay tuned for more information!

Please plan to attend your Annual General Meeting on May15th.

What's Up at Foley Mountain!

Prepared by: Rebecca Whitman

We are about to enter our busiest season here on the mountain! Cue the suspenseful music!! More hikers, picnickers, nature enthusiasts, forest school children, students, and site seers will be flooding through the gates of Foley Mountain to enjoy this special piece of the local landscape. As we prepare to welcome these visitors, we also like to take time to reflect on 2023. We thought you might want to hear some of our statistics and celebrate our accomplishments with us:

- 3457 students, 241 teachers, and 290 adult volunteers participated in education programs – this is an approximately 20% increase over our last pre-pandemic year in 2019.
- 1343 people enjoyed Foley Mountain as part of our facility rentals program
- 92 children joined us for our summer day camp program
- Approximately 33000 people visited Spy Rock and 64,000 vehicles entered the park.

Although we are excited to welcome spring, we have also had a great winter season. We welcomed children to our forest school program, hosted school groups, mentored student teachers, and opened our doors for weekend facility rentals. Sharing our love of the frosty forest on snowshoes, following tracks in the snow, and conducting science experiments are just a few of the many ways we worked with visitors to strengthen their connection to the natural world.

Our spring season will keep our staff very busy with three forest school program days and many school groups and facility rentals. We still have a few spaces in our forest school programs and any interested families can feel free to reach out for more details. As we look ahead to summer, our day camp program is already full with wait lists for each of the four weeks.

Upcoming Programs:

- Don't forget that there is a FREE Forest School Family Drop-in program on the third Saturday of each month from 10-11:30am. Thanks to our friend at the Township of Rideau Lakes for sponsoring these programs! Pre-registration is required and more details can be found on our website at www.rvca.ca under the **Outdoor Education tab**.
- Keep your eyes open for information about some new additions of public programming throughout the summer!
- Registration for fall forest school will be here before we know it! We'll be working on our fall schedule shortly. All the details will be posted on our website.

As always, a big thanks go out to the Friends of Foley Mountain. Your contributions and support mean that we can continue to work towards our goal of getting more folks outside and connected with nature!

For any questions about programming or the conservation area in general, please visit our website at www.rvca.ca, check us out on **Facebook** or, contact **Rebecca** at rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca or 613-273-3255.

Friends of Foley Mountain

Statement of Operating Account – January 1, 2024 to April 8, 2024

<u>Revenue:</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Memberships	\$1,725	\$10,000
Grants & Donations	3,002	4,500
Fund Raising	450	3,500
Bank Interest		660
Total	\$5,177	\$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	\$325	550
Fund Raising		3,000
Office Supplies		550
Bank Charges		70
Miscellaneous		150
Total	\$325	\$17,320

Memberships are the cornerstone for fund raising. It's through your support that we can continue to fund the programs and projects that meet our objectives and purposes at Foley Mountain Park. We are hopeful that you will renew your membership when it expires.

Thankyou for your support.