



Spring 2011

The View from Foley Mountain *

News from the Friends of Foley Mountain

Box 244, Westport ON K0G 1X0

www.friendsoffoleymountain.ca info@friendsoffoleymountain.ca

It's Time to Celebrate!

We've accomplished a lot over the past few years at Foley Mountain and all those involved will be gathering on May 26th for some thank you ceremonies and a barbecue.

Foley Mountain Conservation Area is a lot of things - a protected greenspace that is home to species at risk, a haven for outdoor recreation enthusiasts, an outdoor classroom for educating tomorrow's environmental stewards, and a refuge with gorgeous scenery and views. Its success is the result of the contributions of a lot of individuals and groups- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, the municipalities, local residents, service clubs, the business community, volunteers, teachers, students, donors, and supporters like you who year after year continue to buy memberships in the Friends of Foley Mountain.

So please bring your family come and join us on May 26th to celebrate.

The afternoon/evening program will include the unveiling of recent park improvements; thank you presentations to honour partners who have contributed over the past few years; a great family barbecue followed by the Friends of Foley Mountain Annual General Meeting; and a Board of Directors meeting of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. It is going to be great evening! The invitation to the event is included and an RSVP would be appreciated if you plan on coming.

Besides planning the Annual General Meeting, your Board of Directors have been busy over the winter organizing our fund raising activities which will again feature our **Community Auction on Friday, August 12th**. Please plan on attending to bid on great donated items in a fun setting.

The Board of Directors have approved an operating plan for this year including providing financial support of the summer and school interpretive programs, the rental of amphibians for the Children's Discovery Centre, hiring a student interpreter and buying teaching aids. We are also working with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to erect an Outdoor Learning Centre facility, that if all goes well, we hope to have in place by the fall of 2011.

A big thank you to all the members who have purchased their 2011 memberships. If you have not yet renewed, please do so as soon as possible as our success is dependent on your continuing support.

We've recently welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors and we have room for more. If you are interested in volunteering to join our Board, please give me a call at 613-273-8578. Please come out on May 26th and meet your Directors at the Annual General Meeting.

Mike Fay
President
Friends of Foley Mountain

Save the Date!

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 26

Auction

Friday, August 12

We're on the Web!

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

www.friendsoffoleymountain.ca

Our email 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 Operating Account**

Operating Balance - December 31, 2009 \$ 1020

Revenue:

Sale of Memberships	\$ 11750
Fundraising Event (Kayak Raffle).....	4276
Grants & Donations	3575
Investment Income.....	429
Miscellaneous.....	132
TOTAL.....	\$ 20182

Expenses:

Education Programs	\$ 10000
Trail & Waterfront Development	3000
Summer Student Wage Subsidy.....	2500
Fund Raising (Cost of Kayak)	1785
Advertising & Promotion	1324
Education (Cost of Materials)	1317
Administration.....	781
Office Supplies.....	124
Miscellaneous.....	125
TOTAL.....	<u>\$ 20956</u>
Operating Loss.....	(774)
Closing Balance.....	246
Outstanding Cheque.....	81
Actual Balance - December 31, 2010	\$ 327

**News From the
Rideau Valley
Conservation Authority**

After a year on maternity leave, I returned to work at the beginning of November. The transition was as smooth as possible with the hand-off of ongoing projects from Barry McQuay, Acting Area Supervisor, and lots of support from Rideau Valley Conservation Authority staff members. I am looking forward to being back to my work at Foley Mountain with some new ideas and projects for the upcoming season. Thank you to Barry for bringing his wealth of knowledge and experience back to the mountain and doing a great job.

This winter has been perfect for enjoying the trails at Foley Mountain. With significant snowfall and few melts, there was plenty of opportunity for visitors to get out and snowshoe, ski, or hike. Thanks to the generous donation of 41 pairs of snowshoes from the Friends of Foley Mountain in 2007, two successful snowshoeing clinics were held in February each with a very different demographic of participants. The first, held on a school PA day was mostly children aged four through seven who didn't complain at all

(Continued on page 3)

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 email info@friendsoffoleyMountain.ca

Supervisor's Report

(Continued from page 2)

while trucking through some very deep snow! The second, held on a Thursday morning, was all adults who were mostly interested in trying out the new style of snowshoes. Although very different, both events were lots of fun with great weather conditions. More clinics will be planned for February 2012.

With spring quickly approaching, instructors from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority have been visiting local schools to present the Spring Water Awareness Program (SWAP). SWAP is a free program offered to schools in the Rideau River watershed that teaches students the danger of spring ice and water. The presentation includes discussion, a video, and experiment where students feel how cold spring water is and what effects it has on the body. This program is generously sponsored by Ontario Power Generation and reaches approximately 2000 students each year.

The spring and summer education programs are quickly approaching and teachers are already starting to call to book their class trips. The next few months will be busy with preparations for the programs and getting the park ready for summer visitors. With support from the Friends of Foley Mountain, a summer student will be hired to assist with planning and implementing the outdoor environmental education programs for schools and families. This summer, the Foley Mountain Summer Family Nature Programs will once again be held. The programs will be run most Tuesday and Thursday mornings in July and August

from 10:00am to 11:30am. There will also be a few trial full day programs available throughout the summer so keep checking our website (www.rvca.ca) for more information. In addition, the Interpretive Centre will be open most Tuesdays and Thursdays through Saturdays from 10:00am to 4:00pm during July and August.

Another project that is underway at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is the installation of pay and display systems at developed conservation areas. If all goes well, a unit will be installed at Foley Mountain. The unit will be located at the second picnic area where a gravel pull-in had previously been installed. The hope is that this unit will make it much easier and convenient for visitors to purchase both day and annual passes as credit card payment will be available.

With all of the recent grant dollars that have been generously donated to Foley Mountain Conservation Area, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Friends of Foley Mountain have decided to hold a Foley Mountain Community Conservation Celebration and barbecue to recognize all of our sponsors and partners as well as feature the many projects that have been happening at the park. We encourage you to join us on May 26, 2011 at 4:30pm at the Foley Mountain Interpretive Centre to help us celebrate!

Thank you again for your continued support of the Friends of Foley Mountain and I look forward to seeing you in the park this season.

For questions or more information, call 613-273-3255 or email rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca.



In the summer of 2010, the Friends of Foley Mountain received a grant of \$3000 through the Royal Bank of Canada for a shoreline restoration project at the Foley Mountain Natural Swimming Area. Approximately 100 native shrubs and 200 native perennials were planted along the shoreline. The Lanark Stewardship Rangers lent a hand and learned a great deal through participating in the project.

FRIENDS OF FOLEY MOUNTAIN

AUCTION

Friday, August 12, 2011

Buffet: 5:30 pm

Auction: 7 – 9:00 pm

Westport Legion Hall



Cold Buffet Catered by Westport United Church

**Tickets: \$12, Available from Murphy's Bait Shop,
Friends of Foley Mountain Executive, or United
Church Members**

**Free Admission to auction, including Silent Auction
and Door Prizes.**

***Please come out and support all three community agencies,
and purchase a treasure at the same time.***