



Spring 2019

## **The View from Foley Mountain \***

### **News from the Friends of Foley Mountain**

Box 5, Westport, ON, K0G 1X0

[www.friendsoffoleymountain.ca](http://www.friendsoffoleymountain.ca)

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Isn't it pleasant to finally see the buds on the trees, the grass greening up and the open water? It was definitely a long hard winter here in Westport; I hope you were able to enjoy the many winter experiences that Foley Mountain Conservation Area has to offer.

I am sure that many of you have seen the Foley Mountain Facebook posts of children enjoying the activities that the Forest School has developed for them and of students taking part in the programming offered as part of their school curriculum. Members of the Friends of Foley Mountain should take pride in knowing that our past contributions have enabled the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to continue with these successful initiatives.

The Board of The Friends of Foley Mountain has recently approved the 2019 budget. Thanks to our membership dues and fund - raising activities over the past year, we have been able to make a contribution of \$2,400 to the Forest School and an increased contribution of \$3000 to provide bus subsidies to the local school boards. Forest school funding will be used to provide RVCA staff time for free family drop-in programs (including time for prep, marketing, communications, and tracking) throughout the year to engage families and help promote the kindergarten program. It will also be used to support 8 programs spread over the summer and fall.

With respect to the funding for busing, one of the major obstacles to schools taking part in the outdoor programming at Foley Mountain is the cost of providing busing to the area. Our contribution will provide 20 schools with \$150 for the year for transportation (approximately 10 in the Fall and 10 in the Spring). Additional funding has been allocated for education programs, annual contribution to RVCA, and the education program as well as animal rentals as in past years.

Our continued support of the excellent work that RVCA does at Foley Mountain depends on our ability to raise the necessary funds to make the contributions I referred to. Membership fees are a major source of funds for the Friends of Foley Mountain and I encourage you to renew yours if you haven't already done so. To help you keep track of your membership renewal date, it will be placed on each recipient's newsletter. An email message reminding you of the expiry date of your membership will also be sent. Funds raised at our major annual fund raiser are also essential to allow us to pursue our goals. Again this year we will be hosting a Tapas dinner on Friday July 12 at the Scheuermann Winery in Westport. This is the Friends' major fund-raising activity and your support is greatly appreciated. As in past years there will be wonderful music, good company and great food. More details will be available at a later date. Please watch for the event posters and please plan to join us.

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

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Silversides building in Foley Mountain on May 29th at 7 pm. Please see the article on page 3..

In closing, I would like to thank you for your support of the Friends of Foley Mountain and look forward to its continuation in 2019.

Rob Struthers  
(r.a.struthers@live.com)





## **Review of Foley Mountain Management Plan:**

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) is beginning a review of the Foley Mountain Plan that was last approved in 2009.

Most of the projects and enhancements like the Silversides Outdoor Centre, trail and facility improvements that were proposed in the Plan have been successfully completed. RVCA is now looking to the future and is seeking ideas and suggestions that could be incorporated into a new Foley Mountain Park Management Plan that will be developed over the next year.

**A public consultation phase will begin this spring and will include meetings with local interest groups and stakeholders. This will also include visitor surveys and a social media campaign to seek public input.**

**The Friends of Foley Mountain have been invited to participate in this process and offer suggestions. We have invited representatives from RVCA to attend our Annual General Meeting on May 29th at the Silversides building at 7:00 P.M. to discuss the Plan Review and hear the views of our members. You are strongly encouraged to attend and provide your thoughts on the future of Foley Mountain Conservation Area. Please RSVP to [r.a.struthers@live.com](mailto:r.a.struthers@live.com) if you plan to attend.**



**RVCA Round Up!**  
**Prepared by: Rebecca Whitman**

Well, it looks like winter is behind us and the sights and sounds of Foley Mountain are changing as things warm up! As I'm writing this article, I'm hearing the Pheobes and Red-winged Black birds, watching the Turkey Vultures soar overhead, and catching glimpses of green just waiting to emerge. Maintaining Foley Mountain Conservation Area as a natural space for people to enjoy and appreciate our natural world is very important to us at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Projects that we undertake at Foley Mountain are often made possible with outside funding. The Friends of Foley Mountain is an important part of that puzzle and have played a huge role in helping to ensure the success of our education programs. We would like to extend our thanks to the board and members of the Friends for your ongoing efforts and support to help us on our journey for promoting watershed health and building a future generation of environment stewards!

We had a bustling winter season filled with our first winter session of Forest Kindergarten, lots of snowy adventures with visiting school groups, many weekend groups enjoying our facilities, and visitors hiking and snowshoeing the trails. A big thank you goes out to the Friends of Foley Mountain for making it possible to purchase another 44 pairs of snowshoes to replace and expand our aging fleet! This was an amazing enhancement for our winter programming, making it easier and more enticing for people to get outdoors despite the cold weather.

As spring and summer move along, they will bring a busy season for all programs at the conservation area. Here are some of the exciting things that are up and coming here at Foley Mountain:

#### Spring School Programs and Friends of Foley Mountain Bus Subsidies

Spring is a popular time for school groups to come for a visit to Foley Mountain to enjoy our hands-on outdoor environment education programs. We'll soon find ourselves scooping in the pond, wandering the woods looking for insects and salamanders, breaking out the maps and compasses, going on GPS treasure hunts, learning about outdoor survival skills and more as children from preschool all the way up to high school roll off their busses for a day of learning and adventure.

As many of you know, funding is often tight for schools and with the ever-rising cost of transportation, paying for bussing costs to get students to our site without having to ask families for large amounts of money can sometimes be a challenge. To help make it easier for schools to get here, the Friends of Foley Mountain have again generously provided \$3000 to help offset the cost of transportation. In 2018, 959 students benefitted from this same type of funding. Here are just a few of the comments from groups who received this funding last year to show how much of an impact this makes:

"Our grade 11/12 students had a wonderful time learning about wilderness survival skills at Foley Mountain. The funding provided by your organization allowed our students, who are studying Environmental Science and Geography, the chance to learn some valuable skills in a practical setting. Without your kind donation toward our transportation, our students would have missed out on this fantastic experience."

## **Athens District High School**

The bus subsidy allowed our students the opportunity to enjoy a fun filled hands on learning experience at Foley Mountain. We were able to combine money from school fundraisers, along with your bus subsidy to offer this trip to Foley Mountain to our students at no cost. It was wonderful to send home a permission trip for the trip and fill in a zero amount for the cost. I am sure that parents greatly appreciated that they did not have to worry about money for the trip. The students had a great time learning about life in the beaver pond and all about insects. What a great way to learn science!"

## **Chimo Elementary School**

"Students in Grades 1 to 6 had a wonderful time exploring Foley Mountain. They participated in a variety of different programs that were not only related to the curriculum but also promoted team work, cooperation and an open mind. The students and staff really enjoyed this trip and we love going to Foley Mountain to learn outside in hands on, fun and engaging activities. Outdoor education is so beneficial but, unfortunately, travelling and participating in programs such as this are costly. While we are fairly close to the Conservation Area, busing costs limit the travelling that we can do as it significantly increases the costs of trips and we often have to fundraise to decrease the cost to students and/or the school. This bus subsidy certainly alleviated the financial aspect of this trip and made this type of collaborative learning in an outdoor setting possible."

## **South Crosby Elementary School**

### **Forest School Fun!**

Despite the sometimes cold and snowy weather, we are happy to report that we had a very successful winter session of Forest Kindergarten! Our class of children between the ages of three and six joined us every Monday morning for exploring, experimenting, climbing, sliding, stories, snacks, friendship, learning, fun, and more. The spring session is already off to a good start with program running every Monday and Wednesday morning, and registration for fall is in the works.

Thank you again to the Friends of Foley Mountain for providing funding in 2018 to help us get this valuable program off the ground. We look forward to watching the Forest Kindergarten program grow and evolve in the coming months and years.

This year, the Friends of Foley Mountain have provided funding to sponsor four FREE Forest School Drop-in programs throughout the summer. The programs will run July 11, 25, August 8 and 22 from 10-11:30am. All ages of children are welcome if they are accompanied by an adult. Families will join our educators as we explore, adventure, play, and learn in the forests of Foley Mountain! We run our programs rain or shine and ask people to come dressed for the weather.

In addition to funding the drop-in programs, the Friends of Foley Mountain will also be providing funds to purchase additional equipment for the Forest School program as well as sponsor two children for our fall session. Stay tuned for more details!

## Nature Day Camp

We are very excited to be gearing up for another great season of nature day camp programming! Our experienced educators will be running three weeks of day camp daily from 9am – 4pm for children ages 6 - 12 that will feature nature exploration, games, crafts and more. The cost is \$200/week and \$175 for additional children in the same family. Pre-registration is required and forms can be found at the following link: <https://www.rvca.ca/outdoor-education/foley-mountain-ca/day-camps>

2019 Schedule:

Outdoor Adventurers – July 15 – 19

Nature Explorers – July 29 – August 2

Junior Naturalists – August 12 – 16

## Management Plan

The RVCA is currently reviewing the Foley Mountain management plan. As mentioned in another article, we look forward to having the support of the Friends of Foley Mountain in this process. Join us at the Friends of Foley Mountain AGM on May 29th to get involved!

For more information, contact [rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca](mailto:rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca) or 613-273-3255. You can also visit us online at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) or find us on Facebook (@foleymountain) and Twitter (@FoleyMtn).





**Friends of Foley Mountain**  
**Statement of Operating Account**

For the Period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018:

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<u>Revenue:</u>		
Memberships	\$7,662	\$10,000
Grants & Donations	3,809	2,000
Fund Raising	11,620	8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,091</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Donations to RVCA	8,500 (1)	8,500
Special Projects RVCA	9,982	7,700
Advertising	505	500
Office Supplies	527	550
Fundraising	4,722	3,500
Miscellaneous	817	100
Bank Charges	62	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,115</b>	<b>20,850</b>

- Accrual basis for \$6,000 which was paid in January 2019.