

FALL NEWSLETTER

FREDERICTON TRAILS COALITION

Fall/Winter 2011

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Newsletter comments and
suggestions
can be sent to:

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Message From The President

This has been a busy summer for the Coalition. Following on from two workshops we held early in the year to determine the direction we should take over the next few years, we have started a new summer series of combined talk & activity sessions we call Trail Mix, and have also been present at various promotional events to publicise our existence and our trail-related work, as well as assisting at the Meals-on-wheels bikeathon again. Details of these activities can be found in this Newsletter.

There have also been changes in the City's Parks and Trees division - Brian Cochrane has retired as manager and been replaced by Don Murray, and Mike Glynn is currently standing in for Harold Boone as Trail Co-ordinator. We are very happy to welcome them both, and believe we shall continue to have a very good working relationship with Parks & Trees.

Don't forget to keep an eye on our website:
www.frederictontrailscoalition.com,
and enjoy your winter on the trails!

Ann Dunn

Fredericton Trails Coalition takes a new path

The Fredericton Trails Coalition was established over 20 years ago with the vision of converting the disused rail lines through the City to a permanent walking/cycling network for the use of residents and visitors alike. The aim was to preserve public rights of way and create a 'linear park' system to enhance the quality of life for all our citizens.

That original aim has been met and exceeded, with Fredericton now boasting over 85km of trails within city limits, both along the old railbeds and within the city's beautiful parks. City Council and some residents may have been reluctant to back the project initially, but in my 8 years in Fredericton they have been nothing but supportive of the trails and the FTC.

However, with the trail system so firmly established, there was debate within the Fredericton Trails Coalition of what our ongoing purpose might be. So, from January to April this year we held a series of workshops with a professional facilitator, to discuss that very question.

At our first session, we asked the ourselves the questions, "Why are we

here?", "Where are we going?" and "Do other people value what we do?".

Once we had a good understanding of our own answers to these questions we formulated both a new Vision and a Mission statement which were the focus of a larger workshop with guests invited from FTC partner organisations and other interested trail groups, local businesses, city council and several city departments, the Fredericton Region Museum and School District 18.

The discussion that evening was very productive and confirmed that the wider community still believes we have a role in promoting the trails and their use and supports us in our efforts. We thank all of those who attended for their participation and contributions to the debate.

As a result of these workshops we have started a new summer activity program, and will continue to look for ways to make a difference to the trails and the trail-using community.

Our new Vision and Mission statements will be reviewed periodically to ensure they are still relevant, but for now they are as follows:

Our Vision:

"Our Trails System shall help Fredericton become a leader in promoting active transportation, maintaining a sustainable urban environment, and enhancing recreational opportunities".

Our Mission

"The Fredericton Trails Coalition shall be the community voice for the promotion of an environmentally-friendly transportation network and recreational trail system that aims to enhance the health and quality of life for those who live in and visit our city".

We hope you will continue to support us as we work to meet these aims.

TRAIL MIX / ACCESS YOUR TRAILS

These activities were planned for the summer of 2011 in keeping with the review of the aims & goals of Fredericton Trails Coalition conducted last April.

The intent was to enhance the experiences of all trail users and to educate the general public to the basic rules of trail etiquette and safety.

TRAIL MIX

Birdwatching

Our first event of Trail Mix was certainly deemed a great success when over 20 people met at the Trail Visitor Centre on Wednesday evening, July 13, 2011 where



Birdwatching on the Gibson Trail
Photo: Carol Randall

Peter Pearce introduced us to the world of birdwatching. Peter is a retired wildlife toxicologist who has been watching Grand Manan birds for nearly fifty years. After a short presentation, Peter led us on a walk along the Gibson Trail in search of some birds, with mixed results but much enjoyment.

Peter Pearce, along with Don Gibson and Jim Goltz, has been much of the driving force of the Fredericton Nature Club (www.fnc.gbnature.com)

Native Gardens

David Smith, creator of the Save A Plant (SAP) program, entertained about 20 trail users on the evening of July 27th when he introduced us to many species of native plants that grow in our area. The majority of these plants are present in the garden at the junction of the Gibson and Nashwaak Trails, near the Trail Visitor Centre (see photograph next page). Over the years, the SAP team, which consists of David, a native of Fredericton, and his wife Connie, has assisted school children in creating native wildflower gardens and community display gardens.



David Smith highlights native plantlife at the wildlife garden near the Trail Visitor Centre.

Photo: Carol Randall

Strokes Enroute

Creating a piece of art work is not just for those sitting at home, but can be easily achieved by walkers and bikers alike. On August 10th, in spite of the rain, a dozen trail users and aspiring artists met at the Trail Visitor Centre where, under the guidance of local artist Carole Forbes, they were introduced to Carole's method of working with ink, and both watercolour and Inktense™ pencils, going home with two examples each of their efforts.



Carol Forbes (centre) and art 'students'
Photo: Carol Randall

ACCESS YOUR TRAILS

This event (August 10) was organized to showcase the many types of trail users who include: Moms on the Move; seniors learning the latest fitness craze of nordic walking; in-line skaters, cyclists and skateboarders enjoying the paved surface; and members of the disabled community in their wheelchairs and scooters.

Many local businesses were present displaying their trail related merchandise for trail users. This took the form of booth displays, presentations, and equipment sampling. City policeman Dennis Van Ember & the Park Patrol also set up a portable speed radar. Throughout the two hours prizes were drawn, and the day was topped off by a BBQ compliments of Fredericton Community Services.

Our thanks to all Participants & Donors of Prizes:

Mayor Brad Woodside and Councillor Eric Megarity

Aura Whole Foods Ltd

Carole Forbes / Three Elements

City Police (Park Patrol)

City Recreation & Leisure

City Transit (Dial-A-Bus)

David Smith (Save-A-Plant)
Fredericton Tourism's River Trails Rentals & Tours
Green Matters/Green Shops
In Motion
Medichair (Scooters & Wheelchairs)



Visitors watch a demonstration on
how to repair a bicycle tire puncture
Photo: Ann Dunn

Nature Trust of NB
NB Trails
Northside Youth Centre
Partners For Youth
Peter Pearce (Bird watching)
Premiers Council on the Status of
Disabled Persons
Radical Edge
Recreation New Brunswick

Savage's Bicycle Center
Southside Waterfront Development
SNC Lavalin
Wal-Mart Vision Centre & Pharmacy

Trail Mix / Access your Trails 2011 was deemed a success and plans are being made to continue this component of our Fredericton Trails Coalition programming during the spring and summer of 2012. Suggestions for Trail Mix talk/activity events are welcome; please e-mail info@frederictontrailscoalition.com

Wheels for Meals Bike A Thon - June 18 2011

Once again this year the Fredericton Trails Coalition partnered with Meals on Wheels to conduct a fund-raising bikeathon, with profits going to the Meals on Wheels organization.

Beginning from Officers' Square in downtown Fredericton, participants of all ages and physical abilities chose among two road routes (60 km and 100 km) and four trail routes (5 km, 14 km, 20 km, and 40 km), and were guided along their routes by members of the FTC and/or friends and associates of the group. Water and snacks were provided along the route through the generous auspices of Sun Life Insurance, one of the sponsors of the bikeathon.

Upon returning to Officers' Square, bikers were welcomed back with complimentary ice cream, massages, gift bags from Sun Life, and the chance at a door prize. They were also encouraged to participate in a silent auction, and/or some children's games on site.



A children's decorated bike parade was also part of the fun. Members of the FTC were on hand in the square with information, maps and brochures on all three of the trail systems we are associated with.

The event was originally scheduled for the middle of June, but due to weather, had to be postponed until July 10. This was unfortunate, since many people who had planned to participate were on vacation during this period. Nevertheless, those who did participate seemed to enjoy themselves, and were very generous with their donations and their participation in the silent auction, with the result that we were able to raise in excess of \$10,000 for Meals on Wheels.

Next year's event is already in the works, with June 2 as our date, and June 3 as a rain date. We hope to encourage more participants this year, and to make it an even more successful event.

Joan McDaniel

Fredericton Scouts Rejuvenate Corbett Brook Trail

As part of the rejuvenation the Corbett Brook Trail, the 5th Fredericton Scout Group officially reopened a section of the trail on October 22, 2011, with Mayor Brad Woodside performing the ribbon cutting ceremony. The following article is reproduced by kind permission of Assistant Scoutmaster Lars Woodhouse.

On June 4, 2011, the 5th Fredericton Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, and their parents re-cut part of the Corbett Brook Trail in the Vanier Industrial Park. It was last cut by the Fredericton Area Watersheds Association (FAWA) in 2004, and had become overgrown. We trimmed,

sawed and chopped brush to revitalize this beautiful path. We also pulled out lots of trash and explored the area.

The Scouts wrote interpretive signs for topics that interest them, thanks to inspiration drawn from an educational visit to the trail with Jim

Goltz. The environmentally-friendly cedar signs (see photo) were installed in the place of their choice on the 450 metre trail. Some of their chosen topics are: Habitats, Edible plants, Erosion, Raccoon Feces (in the context of parasites!)... etc.

The 5th Fredericton Scouts thank Loblaw for a \$2500 "Environmental Scout Initiatives" grant to do this work.



The Corbett Brook Trail will provide a long-term impact on the City of Fredericton by contributing to the existing well-used trail system. It also helps raise awareness of local ecology and it provides an educational experience for its patrons. The trail is also a source of relaxation and recreation for local residents, "off the beaten path."

Originally, the Corbett Brook Trail was defined by FAWA to run along the brook from its intersection with the Lincoln Trail up to the UNB Woodlot. This is just one section of the trail which runs adjacent the ANBL headquarters.

We would also like to thank the following organizations for their support: the City of Fredericton, ANBL (this section of trail is on their property), the Fredericton Area Watersheds Association, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, Charlene Mayes, and the Fredericton Trails Coalition.

If anyone is interested in further information on the 5th Fredericton Scouts and their activities, please visit: <http://5thfrederictonscouts.blogspot.com/>

Off-Road Vehicle Enforcement

Once again at this year's NB Trails AGM, Dan Pugh - the manager of the Off-Road Vehicle Enforcement Unit - gave a presentation on his team's work in ensuring that ATV and snowmobile enthusiasts are obeying the law while enjoying their activities. He was able to report that compliance with the law has improved since the Unit was set up 4 years ago: they're inspecting more vehicles, but the number of violations has levelled off. He stressed that for the unit to be most effective they need contact from the public. This applies everywhere in the province, even within municipalities, so the advice is, if you are aware of ATV or snowmobiles doing something or being somewhere they shouldn't, notify the local police but also notify the unit - their contact details are: Tel: 1-877-449-2244,

e-mail offroadvehicle@gnb.ca

Shogamoc Bridge Opening - October 2011

On October 29th 2011 Sentier NB Trail and the Trans Canada Trail Council officially opened the Shogamoc Bridge, a project which has taken more than two years to complete and provides yet another link in the Trans Canada Trail network, which will ultimately provide a non-motorised route across Canada from coast to coast to coast.

Valerie Pringle, as co-Chair of the Trans Canada Trail Foundation (the fund-raising body) and Trevor Holder, NB Minister of Wellness Culture & Sport and Minister of Tourism & Parks, were honoured guests and together with Brian Clark, President of New Brunswick Trails Council Inc., cut the ribbon on this new, beautiful and very sturdy structure.



Valerie Pringle, the Hon Trevor Holder and Brian Clark cut the ribbon



Valerie Pringle with members of Folks on Spokes

As this took place during the NB Trails AGM weekend, the board of the NB Trails Council and members from all around the province were present, as well as local residents, members of the Fredericton Trails Coalition, the Outdoor Enthusiasts of Fredericton and the Folks On Spokes to witness this wonderful event on a cool but glorious sunny Saturday afternoon.

"The completion of the 265-foot suspension bridge is the only missing link of the trail from Woodstock to Fredericton and is a key component in the development of the Saint John River Trail. With the completion of this project we will be able to create a continuous link from Grand Falls to Fredericton, a section of more than 220 km" said Brian Clark.



The completed Bridge

FREDERICTON FOLKS ON SPOKES

Fredericton Folks On Spokes - a bicycle group for ages 50 and up, plus interested visitors to the city - are at the end of another active and very enjoyable biking season.

We bike on all of our city trails alternating each week from the south to northside trails, leaving the Trail Visitor Centre every Tuesday morning at 10 am. Because of the late Spring this year we did not start until the last week in April.

We were privileged to experience the beauty of our lovely trails system - and further for those who wanted a longer ride - from the early beginnings of nature unfolding throughout all the wonderful changes that plant and tree life undergo over our Spring, Summer and Fall growing season.



We are an almost equal mix of men and women who enjoy the structure of a weekly event, the benefits of healthy exercise, and the joy of companionship. This year we have had the highest ever number of bikers coming out on a regular basis - we bike until it becomes too cold and Winter is here to stay.

As the season winds down we have a Fall Luncheon, which this year was at Aggie's Restaurant with 32 participants attending.

We welcome everyone who would like to join us: there are no dues or fees or elected officers. For more information phone Lois at 455-2157.

Lois MacDougall

AND FINALLY:

The Fredericton Trails Coalition has been promoting the trails and our work at various events this year, including the Green Commuter Fair, the UNB Student fair and the Freddy Beach Welcome Party.

On Sunday December 11th we will be at Sunday @ the Market, where we will be raising funds by selling all our usual merchandise (t-shirts, ball-caps etc) as well as beautiful notecards and calendars - 2012 and perpetual - with photography by Carol Randall.

You can also take out or renew a membership, or make a 'Friend of the Trails' donation on behalf of yourself or for someone else - gift cards are available and tax-receipts for donations can be provided. Come and support us!



Friends of the Trail gift card
Photo : Carol Randall