

RAPPORT DES AMIS DU PARC DE LA GATINEAU AVRIL 2013 – MARS 2014 FAITS SAILLANTS

- SUITE DE LA MISE EN OEUVRE DU PLAN STRATÉGIQUE
- BÉNÉVOLES FORMÉS POUR OFFRIR LE PROGRAMME « RAQUETTES SOUS LES ÉTOILES »
- LA RESTAURATION DE SENTIERS VA BON TRAIN GRÂCE AU PROGRAMME « J'ADOPTE UN SENTIER »
- SUPPORT À LA CCN POUR LES CÉLÉBRATIONS DU 75^E ANNIVERSAIRE DU PARC
- VIF SUCCÈS DE LA SÉRIE DE CAUSERIES

REPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF GATINEAU PARK APRIL 2013 – MARCH 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

- CONTINUES IMPLEMENTATION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN
- VOLUNTEERS TRAINED TO LEAD SNOWSHOES UNDER THE STARS.
- ADOPT-A-TRAIL EXPANDS TRAIL RESTORATION INITIATIVE.
- ASSISTS THE NCC IN CELEBRATING 75TH ANNIVERSARY
- SPEAKER SERIES PROVING POPULAR.

Amis du parc de la Gatineau – Rapport pour l’année : Avril 2013 – Mars 2014
Friends of Gatineau Park – Report for the Year April 2013 – March 2014

1. Engagement

Membership, Volunteer and ‘Adopt-A-Trail’ are aspects of the mandate of Engagement Committee under the chair of Catherine Dumouchel.

A. Volunteers:

The Friends of the Park would not exist without the involvement of its numerous volunteers. In 2013-2014, they contributed greatly to the success of our various activities including:

- Snowshoe under the Stars: 5 events / 40 volunteers
- Dusk Series: 8 events / 64 volunteers
- Speakers and Research Series: 6 events / 30 volunteers

As well, there are the 20 or so members regularly involved in the Adopt-a-Trail program and some 25 volunteers who participated to the restoration of the Lusk Falls trail in June 2014. Pictures are on the website.

Several volunteers spent sitting on the Board of Directors and the organizing committees or on other tasks such as administrative and office work.

The mailing list of people who have indicated an interest in volunteering for the Friends is near 200 people. Of these, there is a core of regular contributors estimated at about 50-70 individuals. Others contribute on an occasional basis. Their contribution is valued!

Details are available on request from Mario Simard, our Volunteers Coordinator.

B. Membership:

Currently there are 132 members, there being 11 new members in 2014. There remain 18 founding members.

C. Adopte un sentier :

Le programme *J’adopte-un-sentier* a continué d’accroître sa popularité à sa sixième année d’existence. Le Conseil d’administration désire remercier les vingt-trois bénévoles dont quatre étaient Club Oxygène. Ceux-ci ont effectué un total de 138 visites sur les 17 sentiers adoptés. 36 requêtes ont été acheminées aux employés du Parc par des bénévoles des Amis au sujet d’obstacles sur les sentiers (arbres tombés).

Thank you Paule Trembley for co-ordinating this program and to Julien Raby for overseeing it. In the 2014 season, France Girard with Paule’s assistance will be

responsible for coordinating the efforts of 20+ dedicated volunteers. When you are on the trail, you may encounter them wearing our distinctive vests.

D. New Initiative:

Friends implemented a new initiative whereby volunteers were recruited and trained to deliver the ever popular *Snowshoe Under the Stars* program. In the Fall 2013, a call went out and the response was very positive. Eight volunteers were trained and delivered the program while an additional seven took on the role of sweepers. We hope to continue to benefit from their participation for the 2015 Winter season, and to follow up on their suggestions for new programs to be delivered by volunteers. Thanks to all for their commitment to the Friends and to the Park.

2. Communication

The Communications Committee is under the able chair of Julien Raby. The following achievements are identified:

- Thirty Eight posts with pictures were published on the blog of our bilingual website.
- We have an ever expanding archive of available pictures and graphics to accompany posts thanks to the help of amateur photographers Michel Lemaire, Jo-Holden and Estelle Rother. Estelle's photos are often taken during Program Outings for use in promoting future participation.
- Production d'une liste d'activités ou de programmes offerts par les Amis du parc pour les bénévoles représentant les Amis lors de certains événements (p. ex. Ottawa Outdoor Show) ; mise à jour complète du panneau d'affichage des Amis du parc pour utilisation durant certains événements.
- Coordination de la production (recherche et sollicitation d'articles, traduction, mise en page et impression) de 2 éditions du *Bulletin* des Amis du parc/Friends (2013-I & 2013-II).
- Liaison avec le webmestre pour la maintenance du site web; rapport au CE pour vérification de la facture finale du webmestre ; identification d'un nouveau webmestre.

Those working to foster and enhance communications are thanked. While much of their work is behind the scenes, it is imperative to promoting our mission and activities.

3. Finance and Fundraising

As the financial statements attest, our income has grown substantially. Treasurer Sarah Crowe, accountant Ray Folkins, bookkeeper Margaret Tardiff and office assistant Marie Claire Lemay oversaw our record management. Accounting program was updated.

Dedicated donations are tagged to support - Research, Public Education, Volunteer Recognition and Upgrade to Park Exhibits. We are negotiating a gift of a hand crafted canoe. It will be the largest single donation received to date. Donations received to the

Cameron-Purenne Fund to foster Research enabled us to again give \$2,000 in grants. The cumulative value of donations, since 1999, is in excess of \$74,505.

4. Programmation (Nature et Patrimoine)

The Program Committee is under the direction of Gershon Rother. We are grateful to the members of that committee for their dedication and forward thinking.

The Dusk Series entered its 10th year of operation. A total of 480 persons participated in our programs Frog Chorus, Bats, Owl Prowl, Lost in the Forest and 5 sessions on Snowshoes under the Stars, and 88% increase over last year. New programs in the speaker series included Research on Wolves in the Park, Archeology and Caves which saw 55 persons attend. Fifteen persons used our complimentary coupons.

Contracted programs for the National Capital Commission continued in 2013-2014¹. The total number of interpretative hours were 1670 hrs. So as to provide a sense of how those hours were distributed, the following is provided:

- Winter/spring/fall weekend program for visitors centre 09%
- Outdoor Classroom programs across seasons 23
- Outreach to Schools - In Class program 12
- Snowshoe programs for New Canadians 09
- Programs for campers at Lac Philippe 10
- Interpreters at Mackenzie King Estate 37
- 75th Anniversary 01

This does not include hours dedicated to training and preparation.

A contract program with Nordik Spa –Nature continued this year. There were 48 interpretative hours (11 outings) offered, one being cancelled. The partnership works.

With respect to Special Group Programs available to the public (individuals, organizations, bus tours), there have been 13 programs. Informal feedback from participants remains positive.

5. Special projects

With only a few projects being completed in the year ending March 31, 2014, your Board determined that going forwards projects would be completed in the fiscal year they were approved and that all outstanding projects would be completed in this fiscal year: Wilderness Skills, Description of Current Program to be used in Marketing and Promotion, and Development and Implementation for protocols for assessing value of donated cultural heritage, for using a model Deed of Gift of cultural heritage, and for receiving and celebrating receipt of an object of cultural heritage are examples of projects now completed or will soon be completed.

¹ Friends also contracted 652 hours for a replacement Information officer –Visitors Centre.

6. Dialogue avec les chercheurs : sa 9^e édition

En novembre dernier, les Amis du parc de la Gatineau, en collaboration avec la CCN, ont relevé tout un défi, soit celui d'offrir à ses membres et au public en général un véritable « Mois de la recherche »

Cette année, le thème qui encadrait l'ensemble des présentations fut le 75^e anniversaire de la création du parc de la Gatineau. Au total, 8 présentations, regroupées sous trois volets, *récréation, conservation et patrimoine*, ont eu lieu et ont attiré en moyenne une trentaine de personnes par après-midi.

Merci à tous nos généreux présentateurs – Sarah Padbury, Dr. Paul Heintzman, Line Lapierre, Dr. Douglas King, Evan Seed, Alexia Leinenweber, Claire Banville, Marie-Michèle Dallaire, Michel Lemaire, Allison Eagen, Carol Martin et Linda Bardell – véritables piliers de ces journées consacrées à la diffusion des travaux de recherche menés dans le Parc.

Nous tenons également à remercier nos collaborateurs de la CCN, François Leduc et Louis-René Sénéchal, ainsi que tous les bénévoles des Amis qui ont travaillé de près ou de loin à l'organisation et la mise en œuvre de ces rencontres. De plus, de très chaleureux et sincères remerciements sont présentés à Marie-Michèle Dallaire de notre Comité de la programmation qui s'est occupée de main de maître de toute la gestion et l'organisation de cet important projet.

7. Administration

A. Office: The office has been under the able administration of Marie Claire Lemay. Marie Claire assume responsibility for managing the contracts of all our interpreters. Thank you Marie Claire

B. Nominations: The Nomination Committee was under Catherine Dumouchel's chairmanship. Our membership at last year's AGM appointed Chris Paci as their representative to the Nomination Committee.

C. Planning Evening: On January 29, there was a planning evening with Board and committee members. Our focus was on *Progress and Impediments in Implementing the Strategic Plan*

D. Review of Bylaws: Mario Simard, who led the discussion at the last Annual Meeting on change to the bylaws, oversaw our successful quest to bring us in compliance with the new federal Act Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. Thank you Mario.

Graeme Roderick, president on behalf of the Board of Directors
October 23, 2014 - Approved by the membership at the October 25 AGM