



The Lakefield Trail Newsletter

2011



NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGN

Early Power Generation in Lakefield

Lakefield was settled in the early 1800s because rapids and a falls on the Otonabee River could power local mills and associated industries. As part of the construction of the present power plant in 1926, two large concrete towers were built by the Canada Cement Company to deliver electric power to their Lakefield cement factory.

Lafarge Canada acquired Canada Cement's assets in 1970. The towers were demolished in the summer of 2010 since they were no longer in use. Lafarge Canada has provided a grant to the Lakefield Trail and left us with a piece of "commemorative" concrete from the towers.

A new interpretive sign is to be placed on the trail close to where the towers stood to describe the alterations to the river, development of water and electrical power generation over the years, and the participation of the Canada Cement Company in that process. Watch for an announcement of the sign's unveiling in early summer!

Concrete Jungle to Trailside Garden



Artist's rendition, 1998. Design to be finalized.

Transforming bleak, barren pavement to a pleasant path flanked by native trees, shrubs, and plants.

The Lakefield Trail Stewardship Committee will be embarking on a major trail improvement project this spring supported in part by a grant from Lafarge Canada. The initiative was inspired by the strong community support for the trail shown at both the 10th Anniversary Gala and during the River Raffle for the canoe last summer.

The major infrastructure changes on Water Street adjacent to Foodland and Rona combined with the removal of the concrete towers have provided us with

an opportunity to enhance the trail by creating a native plant garden along the river south of Bridge Street. Work on this significant undertaking will begin in May. We will enlist the expertise of Cathy Dueck at the Ecology Garden in Peterborough and plan to purchase native trees, shrubs, and plants.

Do drop by the site to see the work in progress. If you're interested in actively participating, please contact Heather English. Thanks for your ongoing support for trail improvement.

PolarFest Night Hike 2011



On the cold, crisp evening of January 28, Tracy Logan led an enthusiastic group of hikers around Hague Point on the Lakefield Trail. She told us about the different habitats found there and what all the birds, animals and fish were doing under the ice and snow. She didn't forget to tell us about the "frogsicles"!

A second group viewed a presentation by Buckhorn astronomer John Crossen who presented amazing slides revealing the surfaces of a number of planets.



Fire & Ice Sculpture by Wendy Wallace.

The groups then switched so that everyone got a chance to both hike and watch slides. The program ended around the bonfire, roasting marshmallows and sipping hot apple cider while viewing another of Wendy Wallace's amazing Fire and Ice sculptures by the water.

Celebrating Walter Walker

On June 26, more than 50 people joined the Lakefield Trail Stewardship Committee, members of Walter Walker's family, James Raffan, and a flotilla of 13 finely crafted Walter Walker canoes in celebrating his life. A number of the canoes were handcrafted by Walter. A new sign placed beside Walter's memorial bench was unveiled.

James Raffan, the Executive Director of the Canadian Canoe Museum, along with Karen Johnston and Sandra Hahn, Walter's daughters, paid tribute to his life and significant contribution to canoe building. James commented that this was the largest collection of Walter Walker canoes he'd ever seen.

The canoe flotilla braved the rain and paddled smartly in formation past the gathered crowd.



Enthusiastic canoeists position their canoes into flotilla formation.

Historical Walking Tours - Past and Future

Sunday, September 19, 2010 - Over 70 people took part in an historical walking tour of the village of Lakefield. Many resident volunteers brought the story of Lakefield's roots to life, pointing out several spots of interest. Then the group enjoyed refreshments in the Marshland Centre with Kane Miller, violinist, adding delightfully to the celebration of Lakefield's history. One lucky participant won "Lakefield - The Story of a Village" written by Kim Krenz, who was present to autograph copies for others.

Sunday, September 11, 2011 - The theme of the next historical walk will be "Industries of Lakefield - Past and Present." This walk will take place primarily on the east side of the village. As with previous historic walks, tickets will be limited in number to 100. Watch for the announcement and get your tickets before they are all taken. We will again be baking cookies for you!

uncoming TRAIL EVENTS

Trail Work Day

Saturday, April 16, 2011, 9 am
Meet at shade shelter, Water St.

Spring Nature Hike (see below)

Sunday, May 1, 2011, 10 am
Meet at Marshland Centre

Family Paddle Event

Thursday, June 23, 2011, 5:30 pm
Meet at Lakefield beach

Booth at Lakefield Jazz Festival

Saturday, July 9, 2011

Booth at Lakefield Sidewalk Sale

Saturday, August 13, 2011

Historical Walking Tour

Sunday, September 11, 2011

PolarFest Night Hike

Friday, January 27, 2012
Meet at Marshland Centre

Join Us for a Spring Nature Hike

At 10 AM on
May 1 join avid
naturalist, Tracy
Logan, as she
takes us on a hike
around Hague
Point.



Following the route taken in January during the night hike, discover the many changes now that the snow and ice have receded. Hear about the awakening of spring as she shares her knowledge of bird songs and trills. You may already be familiar with the honking of the returning geese, the wild call of the loon, and the spring song of the chickadees. There will undoubtedly be fresh animal paw prints to identify, trees and shrubs in bud, green shoots of grasses, and wildflowers to admire and label.

At the end of the walk, purchase a tasty back bacon on a bun sandwich served by the Lakefield Trail Stewardship Committee.

All ages are welcome. Bring your binoculars.

REMINDER: When hiking, a winning hiker attitude includes: safety, respect, and relaxation. Leave the Trail cleaner than you found it. Carry out all litter. Keep pets leashed.

Successful 10th Anniversary of Lakefield Trail

It all started in January of 2010, when a committee began the planning for "An Evening of Good Cheer" - a gala celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Lakefield Trail. Meeting monthly, volunteers planned every detail.

Volunteers helped raise more than \$16,000 with these two events last year.

At the same time, Lakefield resident and Canoe Museum volunteer, Denis Gagne, with assistance from Bill Buddle, Harold Baal, Merrilyn Lindsay, David Walsh and Al Smith, started building the beautiful Ranger Style 15' cedar epoxy canoe to be the grand prize in the "River Raffle." Included were two hand-crafted cherry paddles, two lifejackets and a safety kit for a total value of \$6,000. Volunteers sold tickets at various locations and festivals during the summer and many people admired the fine craftsmanship. Total funds raised from the raffle were \$7,596.30.

The gala evening proved to be a wonderful success with a fantastically decorated venue, food, music and a wonderful array of donated articles for the silent and live auctions. A total of \$9,209.87 was raised for future trail maintenance and enhancements.

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Trail supporters enjoyed a gala evening on November 12 in Lakefield College School's dining hall.



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"River Raffle" canoe made of western red cedar and created from a kit available through Bear Mountain Boats.

L-R: Bruce Bellchambers, Denis Gagne and Edna Whitehouse.



Shore Naturalization

Last fall, Canada World Youth volunteers and Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) staff planted native shrubs near Hague Blvd. to naturalize the shoreline next to the trail. ORCA sourced grant funding for the project.

Our local hero PENNY HEBERT

Penny Hebert was truly a local hero when it comes to the support she gave to Lakefield Trail Stewardship. Committee members were saddened to hear of Penny's death due to cancer this past winter.

Penny shared many happy times with family and friends enjoying outdoor activities. She began to volunteer for the Lakefield Trail several years ago and jumped in enthusiastically to help in many ways. On an ongoing basis, Penny promoted trail events and activities by accepting the media relations role, writing many articles, and taking pictures.

"There is no doubt that when Penny took on a volunteer task, she was as thorough as one could possibly be, resulting in the profile of the Lakefield Trail being raised in the media and beyond the community. Her enthusiasm energized us all," states Bruce Bellchambers, committee chairperson.

The Lakefield Trail Committee wishes to extend deepest condolences to Penny's husband Ray and the rest of Penny's family. The committee plans to plant a tree in her honour this spring.



Connecting to Bridgenorth by Trail

The Bridgenorth Trail Committee opened its 2 km trail in 2010. It is now investigating the potential for connecting Bridgenorth to Peterborough and Lakefield by trail. Although the process is in its early stages, they are exploring the possibility of creating a trail along the 7th Line of Smith. Preliminary talks are ongoing with a consulting firm to see how this road could support a trail.



Lakefield Trail Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in supporting the Lakefield Trail as a volunteer, below are some of the opportunities:

1. Become a Trail Stewardship Committee member. We meet one evening a month in Lakefield.
2. Assist with general trail maintenance such as litter pick-up, spreading limestone screenings, and carpentry.
3. Lend a hand at trail events such as the May spring nature walk, the Lakefield Jazz Festival booth, and the August sidewalk sale booth.
4. Install benches.
5. Assist with planting, especially at the Trailside Garden this spring.

Please contact Heather English, Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield Recreation Department, at 705-292-7034.



BRIDGENORTH TRAILHEAD
3th Line and East Communication Road
March 2009
job # 09-01
BA
ANTHONY LAZZARINO
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
255 Gordon St.
Peterborough, ON
K9J 1G7
Tel: 705-751-1111

Artist's rendering of new Bridgenorth Trail entrance

renew your MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Address _____ Box # _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Name to appear on Donor List _____ email _____

All donations are gratefully accepted, but the following are suggested amounts:

- \$20 \$50 \$100 _____
- I prefer to give my time. My phone number is _____

A charitable income tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

Payment options:

- I have enclosed a cheque payable to Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield.
- If paying in cash, please visit the township office.



705-292-7034
fax: 705-292-7718
info@lakefieldtrail.ca

Trail information available at:
www.lakefieldtrail.ca

Thank you for your support!

Please mail completed form to:
Lakefield Trail Stewardship Committee
c/o Department of Recreation
Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield
P.O. Box 270
Bridgenorth ON KOL 1H0