

Newsbulletin


Rideau Waterway
LAND TRUST
FOUNDATION INC.

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February 2000

Our New Look

The Communications Committee, chaired by **David Donaldson**, have reformatted our newsletter into a quarterly bulletin. Our members, donors and sponsors will be receiving news from the Trust four times a year. The activity of the Trust has increased significantly over the last few years and David felt a quarterly bulletin was needed to keep our supporters informed.

Membership Surpasses 340 Voting Members

The membership of the Trust continues to grow. As of February 1 over 340 landowners and users of the Rideau Waterway have joined with the Trust as we work to preserve the lands of natural, aesthetic or historic value in the Rideau Corridor. The membership committee, under the guidance of **Peter Skelton**, continues to work hard. Peter and his committee expect another busy year and are working towards another substantial increase in membership in 2000.

Membership Renewal

Enclosed with this mailing is a membership renewal form. Please take a minute to renew your membership for 2000. With your continued support the Trust can continue to preserve lands along the Rideau for the benefit of all users of the Waterway. The members and volunteers of the Trust continue to build a legacy that we can pass down to our children.

Corn Roast 2000

Encouraged by the unprecedented success of our inaugural Corn Roast in 1999 the committee is hard at work planning Corn Roast 2000 to be held on August 5 at Chaffey's Lock. This year's event has been expanded to include the Fast and Furious Sea Trials during the afternoon. Beginning at 12 noon teams of boat builders will have four hours to build a seaworthy craft from the materials supplied. The crafts must be launched in time for the Fast and Furious Sea Trials scheduled for 5:00 p.m.

The Rock 'n Roll bands will return for an evening of 50' and 60's music. We have to bring them back, our members are asking for them.

Last year this event was sold-out. This year we will have 1200 tickets available from July 1 from **Vince Watters** at the lockstation or from Corn Roast Volunteers. Get your tickets early because when they're sold, they're sold.

Mitel Joins the Trust as a Sponsor

Mitel Corp. has joined our returning sponsors, Parks Canada, Molson Breweries and Shaded Affair to help sponsor Corn Roast 2000. The Trust welcomes Mitel aboard.

Enbridge Gas Cooks

The Enbridge Gas Community Events Team will be coming from Toronto and bringing all the cooking equipment and volunteers to handle the food preparation at the Corn Roast. We welcome Enbridge and their volunteers. You have

no idea how much Vince and his committee appreciate this.

Trust Accepts Jack's Island

The Brown family has generously donated a second island to the Trust. The donation of this one-acre island in Whites Bay in Whitefish Lake was completed in December of 1999. This island will be preserved in its natural state for the enjoyment of all users of the Rideau Waterway. The Trust would like to congratulate the Brown Family for their continued support.

Since its incorporation in 1996 the volunteers of the Trust have acquired 90 acres with over 6000 feet of waterfront along the Rideau Waterway. It's a great start.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Opinicon Hotel in Chaffey's Lock. The Cross Family and staff of the Opinicon will welcome our members and guests on the evening of September 16, 2000. Once again the evening will include the Annual General Meeting, followed by a Reception and Awards Dinner. Last years event was well attended so set aside this date and join with your fellow members and volunteers as we celebrate the successes of the Trust.

Ontario Nature Trust Alliance

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust, through its continued support of this Alliance, continues to work toward some relief from property taxes that land trusts are levied on the lands they own. The Alliance believes that the volunteers of the land trust movement are working hard to preserve ecological lands for the

public benefit and as such should be entitled to some form of property tax relief. The provincial government is working with us to find a solution to the property tax issue.

ONTA welcomes the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations on board as an associate member. FOCA brings the voice of over 85,000 members in support of the land trust movement in Ontario.

Business Plan Completed

The Board of Directors recently approved the Rideau Waterway Land Trust Business Plan 2000 – 2005. The plan calls for continued growth during this period and an expansion of activities to include additional areas within the Rideau Corridor. The land acquisition program is expected to remain strong throughout this period. Special emphasis will be placed on fundraising for the Land Management Endowment Fund. It is important that funds be available, in perpetuity, for the care of the lands entrusted to the Rideau Waterway Land Trust.

The plan is currently being published and will be available shortly.

Website

Visit our website at rideau-info.com/landtrust This Rideau website was created and is maintained by **Ken Watson** on a volunteer basis. Ken has to be one of the hardest working volunteers in the Rideau Corridor.

Need Information

If you would like information on our programs or events contact us at 1-613-272-0172 or e-mail rwlt@canada.ca