

SAUGEEN RAILTRAIL ASSOCIATION
12TH Annual General Meeting – Tuesday, March 4, 2008
Port of Fellowship Baptist Church 7:00 pm

Introduction and Welcome:

President Bruce Alexander called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm thanking everyone (over 25 people) for coming out. The minutes of the 2007 AGM were reviewed and accepted on motion by Fred Schildroth/Marguerite Wattenburg.

President's Report:

Bruce announced that 2007 had been a good year for the SRT . The highlight was **Hurricane Hazel Project** which was financially assisted by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Power Workers Union, Society of Energy Professionals, Town of Saugeen Shores and SRT. A special thanks to co-sponsor **Grosvenor's of Southampton** at the "Old Station" at the end of the Rail Trail provided a **WOW, SPREAD OF REFRESHMENTS** for a very special day. (launching the 'crash site viewing platform' project)

The **Memorial Garden** at Peel and Grosvenor St. which was launched in 2006 performed their **first 2007 Memorial service on July 1st** in memory of engineer Gordon McCallum, fireman Stewart Nicholson, Edna Kruk (Bill & Molly McDowell) and Marion Eby (Jane MacDougall)

Partnering with the **SouthPort Horticultural Society** was a positive union. It has been exciting to work with this very enthusiastic group in the planting of trees and sharing **creative ideas for beautifying the Trail. The Saugeen RailTrail and the Southport Horticultural Society worked as newly-formed partners on Sat. May 12th planting 260 trees in the 'gaps'** north and south of McNabb St. in Southampton. Thanks to the many who helped water the trees. Special thanks to **Bill Harris** who creatively came up with a effective watering system which made **watering much effective.**

It is a thrill to see the return of many **bird species...**thanks to **John Darke.** He has been **busy restoring, cleaning, and adding bird nesting boxes** on the Trail in various locations.

We salute people like **Peter Little and his staff at Little's Furniture** for spear heading a A+ clean up job a huge portion of the Trail during Earth Week 2007. Truly, a **good example** to many.

Canada Day 2007 was again well attended as many came out for the hike/bike starting at the Port Elgin Beach Gazebo. Thanks to **Leo Fortin's family and Vi Cottrill for heading up this year's ride.**

The Hurricane Hazel site is an environmentally **sensitive wetland** and we waited until **mid summer for the opportune time** to begin the restoration work. Our good friend **Ed Cook** faithfully took '**footage**' of the work. **Ward Robertson of CKNX volunteered to edit/dub Peter C. Bart's music to Ed's 'footage'.**

A **committee under Garden Manager Jim O'Connor** was formed to beautify the '**crash site**' and to **explore/plan ways of developing the area across/north of the Memorial garden. Jean Weichel's phone call** was the beginning of a very exciting **plan to develop this area** in memory of her dear friend...**Nancy Forsyth** for her many years of community service.. The Town's **Lori Pearson** then came up with a prelim. design.

15,000 brochures were printed and distributed to all the **border towns** and area of Ontario. Each printing is for a duration of 2 years.

Treasurer's Report:

Income: \$70,705.92 Expenses: \$70,705.92 Surplus: \$2,818.95
Audited by: Ruth Dudgeon retiree from the TD Canada Trust as a Financial Advisor
On motion by Joyce Scammell/Fred Schildroth to accept the financial report. Carried.

Trail Manager's Report:

A complete inventory of signage needs on the SRT will be completed. An order for signs has been submitted expecting installation in the Spring.

Nomination of Directors for 2008:

Nominations were as follows: *President: Bruce Alexander, Vice President: Norm Charbonneau, Treasurer: Marguerite Wattenburg; Secretary:/Public Relations: Joyce Scammell; Memberships: Mary Lou Hills; Trail Managers: Ron Tolton/Jerry Boucher, Garden Manager: Jim O'Connor; Member At Large: Dave Cheer*

Guest Speaker:

Mike Myatt, Saugeen Shores' Recreation Director was introduced. He reviewed the goals of the **Parks and Trails Master Plan** and discussed the acquisition of new "parkland". The Town is entitled to **zone 5%** of all new development to parkland which has resulted in the "**Woodland Trail**". It is a long linear park created between Saugeen Concession 10 and South Street in Southampton. **The Town has started to collect deeds to these lands as housing developments proceed.**

Council support the 10 year plan a "loop" trail system in our community and continues to seek more sponsorship through private donations. He highlighted the importance of maintaining the **role of volunteers** noting that less than **6% of the population fill these roles.**

Mike discussed our goal of **linking the SRT to MacGregor Park** via development along land owned by the Town known as the **Gore Drain**. He indicated that sewage work is needed at the Tourist Camp south of town which could link with the construction of the summer 2007 work. A dual paved bike lane is planned along Saugeen Concession 6 from the rail bed to the intersection/lights. **The MASTER TRAIL PLAN can be found at www.saugeenshores.ca**

Ten Key Action Steps:

- (1) Complete Central loop trails system – Prioritize 5 year plan through consultation process between Town of Saugeen Shores and Saugeen Rail Trail Association (in progress)**
- (2) Develop trails design and maintenance management handbook (committee has been formed) – clarify roles between Town and Rail Trail.**
- (3) Develop Parks & Trails Brochure (in progress)**
- (4) Create Trails sponsorship committee**

- (5) Clarify roles and responsibilities for: - Parks and Trails advisory committee
- Saugeen RailTrail Association - Town of Saugeen Shores Staff (in progress)
 - (6) Explore opportunities to partner with private landowners including land-use agreements (some early successes)
 - (7) Continue to promote volunteerism (ongoing)
 - (8) Continue to promote community ownership
 - (9) Create and foster community partnerships
 - (10) Advocate consistency for Trails signage in partnership with Town of Saugeen Shores and Bruce County Tourism Strategy (Plan has started)
- Questions were poised: Motorized vehicles on the Trail, time lines of trail development, memberships etc.

SRT WEB Site: www.saugeenrailtrail.com

Joyce unveiled the new SRT website which will be launched in the next couple of days by Owen Smart. It is an education, fundraising, membership and information tool, which should assist in linkages to other key sites.

New Business:

Joyce Scammell moved that the Annual General Meeting be held during the first week of June. (2009) as more of our summer visitors can attend. (instead of Feb/Mar) Seconded by Fred Schildroth. CARRIED.

Adjournment:

On motion by Marguerite/Joyce that the meeting adjourn at 9:20 pm.