

SWT President's report AGM April 13, 2019

Trails are a living creature – they age and have to be rejuvenated on a regular basis. Every 3 years we look at a section of trail and determine what we will have to do the following year, to maintain it, improve it or rebuild some sections. As the traffic grows this becomes even more critical.

Over 6 years we had good cooperation from the Municipal council. We were receiving grants of between \$15,000 and \$25,000 for both trails building and the printing of trail maps.

A major event caused us some problems through no fault of our own – The massive rainstorm of November 2017.

For 2017 we received \$20,000. By early November we were looking at getting crushed stone to put in place to work on in the Spring of 2018 and we were working on the rebuilding of the upper bridge at Hendrick's Park.

With the rain, all this work had to be cancelled and we were unable to spend \$4,000 out of the \$20,000 we had received from the Municipality. We asked the Municipality if we could carry over the \$4,000 – NO a request of this sort had to be made in September!

You know that when dealing with Government if you don't spend all the money you were given they deduct it from your request for the next year.

So we received \$15,000 down from the \$22,500 that we had asked for.

By the end of 2017 we had some good news. Through the auspices of the TCT we received \$6,200. From KEEN Footwear. The MRC and the GVHS came on board and provided us an additional \$4,500. The Covered Bridge Run added \$1,200 and through the Federal Government we received \$1,700 to hire one student. These funds then allowed us to develop the River Walk Heritage Plaque project and the TCT sign posts with a team involving Anita Rutledge, Linda Bardell, Alison Scott and Micheal Kinghorn. In May our team of Student workers and volunteers installed all this material in time for the June 1st opening of the River Walk Project.

In 2017 another opportunity presented itself. As an official beneficiary of the Woods Logue Golf Tournament we were given \$2,500 and purchased the tracking equipment that Rick has shown you the figures.

A committee of SWT worked for a month developing a three year Long Term Strategic Plan. We submitted this to the Council as all other organizations do in September, asking for \$22,500 as we had for 2018. In January of (2019 after many hours of planning our work for 2019 we find out we only received \$10,000, 60% less than we asked for!

In conclusion here are the

OPPORTUNITIES WE MISSED!

- Employment Quebec was willing to pay an older worker we had lined up to replace Adrian, \$12 an hour for 26 weeks or \$12,480. This man with 20 years of construction experience was to have been our “Foreman” coordinating the work of our volunteers.
- With only a total grant of \$10,000 we had to drop the Employment Quebec application as we did not have the matching dollars.
- The CLD had been willing to help with up to half of our share of the \$12,480. = \$6,240
This still left us with too little for our regular operation.
- The Trans Canada Trail would have put us in touch with Goodfellow lumber one of their key sponsors in Quebec, to provide us lumber for the rebuilding of the turntable park.

Let me sum up –

- We were not able to get \$12,480 from Quebec Government
- We were not able to get up to \$6,240 from the MRC
- We were not able to get \$4,000 to \$6000 of lumber from Goodfellow lumber.

I calculate a loss in dollars we might have realized would have been \$30,000.

Ken Bouchard, President Sentiers Wakefield Trails