

FRIENDS OF PETRIE ISLAND
AMIS DE L'ÎLE PETRIE



www.petrieisland.org

Report to the City of Ottawa for the 2012 Summer Season
December, 2012

This was the Friends of Petrie Island's fifteenth year of operation and our eighth with the new beach open. The City provided lifeguards and daily maintenance and operated the beach house starting in mid June and closing the 3rd week in August, except for Labour Day weekend in September.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hot summer weather with 27 days above 30 degrees, attendance was 256,980 May through Sept,
- All Ottawa beaches were closed less frequently probably due to the dry spring and early summer weather
- Funds generated included: \$13,569 in grants, \$2500 in donations and a value of \$18,752 in volunteer labour for a total of \$ 32,321 - *see Summary, tables 3 and 4, appendix A*
- S.P.I.R.I.T. did not operate any programs this year. FOPI replaced some of the programs and initiated new programming. See interpretive program section.
- The Friends of Petrie Island completed a seventh year of turtle nesting studies
- Junior nature program was continued and we added a program for ages 7 to 12 as well as Home Schoolers and School tours
- The Management plan was finalized but has not yet been approved by the City
- We had to use animals that were pets as we are no longer allowed to use native species in the nature centre.
- We received a Certificate from the City through Councillor Monette celebrating 15 years of service at Petrie
- Moved by the City and installed by FOPI tennis shed from Gardenway to Petrie Island for use as program storage and supplies

PARTNERSHIPS

- FOPI continued interactions with City staff
- Ottawa Duck Club - Duck counts
- Ottawa Riverkeeper – River Watch
- Turtle Day with presentation from Little Ray's Reptiles
- Ottawa Voyageurs Walking Club - Orleans Royal Canadian Legion
- Knights of Columbus E Waste day
- Earth Day with First Nations

SITE IMPROVEMENTS – FOPI

- Improved the Nature Centre, set up 6 new dioramas
- Majority of work was done on Wednesday mornings; some groups also participated in general cleanups
- We built 10 new picnic tables
- We have been working with the City to move the tennis shack from Gardenway to Petrie Island

OPERATIONS

- Spring cleanup and monitoring of the picnic area and trails was provided by Friends of Petrie Island, using volunteers and students hired with City funding \$7900 along with a Careers Canada grant of \$ 14,000.
- Monitoring is important to protect the environment and for public safety and has led to reduced levels of vandalism and damage. No major damage or vandalism has occurred this year.
- The City opened the beach washrooms, provided daily garbage collection and beach grooming maintenance, materials and grass cutting
- City provided regular lifeguards from mid-June to the end of August for the two beach areas. The River beaches and the East beach were monitored separately and opened accordingly. The river beaches were closed 11 days and the East beach 15 days due to high E. coli readings but both beaches were only closed 6 days at the same time, see Table 2.
- Geese were considered to be the main factor in the beach closings. The City continued studies for geese control. There were a few geese during the hot weather in June and July but numbers increased in August and September
- Parking –There was only 2 days all summer when the parking lot was full (350 cars). Many visitors are still confused about parking fees on weekdays. FOPI is concerned about reduced attendance, due to parking charges, especially early mornings. FOPI does not feel fees should be charged when lifeguards are not on duty before 11 a.m. and after 7 p.m., or during prolonged inclement weather. See Appendix C
- Dragging of the sand areas continues to be a concern as it may affect turtle nesting

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance was high in July due to hot weather and special events,
- Attendance figures are based on car counts multiplied by 2.5 persons in May/June and 3.0 persons in July/August – figures represent person-hours of use
- Figures are found in Table 1 of Appendix A.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The cessation of the SPIRIT tours, programs and day camps led FOPI to expand its educational program. We received our regular Careers Canada grant in early May and due to the efforts of our MP Royal Galipeau we received an extra two 8 week positions in mid May. This allowed us to hire two additional summer students to assist in expanding our youth programs and improving our displays and signage.

- Jim Robertson's 4 slide shows continue to be available on our website and are very popular. Dawn to Dusk , Birds of Petrie , Seasons in a Small Wilderness, and Turtles were viewed 374 times
- 14 Junior Naturalist programs were held during the summer and fall, ages 2 – 6,
- FOPI staff initiated a Naturalist program for 7 to 12 year olds, 8 programs were presented and impromptu tours were held, 6 tours for seniors, and 5 City camp tours were also arranged
- Four school tours were given during June
- Opened the centre daily in June, July and August and on weekends in May, and September
- Theme days were held with nature displays, including a 13th Wildflower Walk and an 12th annual Turtle Day which included a presentation from Little Ray's Reptiles
- We held an E waste day in co operation with the Knights of Columbus, an Earth Day and a Jane's Walk for the 4th year and hosted the Capital to Capital Voyageur overnight camp (Ottawa to Washington D.C.)

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

- FOPI members continued Turtle counts on Turtle Pond
- 6 of the twenty Butternut trees planted in 2008/09 have survived.
- A seventh turtle nesting study was conducted by FOPI with some members of the public. Snapping turtle hatchlings were observed in different parts of Steumer park the last week in August and the first week in September. Poaching of turtle nests by raccoons and skunks continue to be a major hazard for turtle, with over 100 nests being poached.
- Wood duck boxes (Ottawa Duck Club) were again well used

- FOPI continues to participate in the Riverwatch program for Ottawa Riverkeeper on the Ottawa River, including supporting the Capital to Capital Voyageur canoe trip in September.
- The largest amount of damage continues to be from beavers felling or damaging mature trees
- FOPI continues to oppose a bridge at Petrie Island
- Geese continued to be a problem this year and the City is trying to come up with solutions

SUMMARY

The main beach has been in operation for eight years and FOPI has operated and developed the picnic area and trails over the past fifteen years.

Many issues FOPI has championed for several years continue to show little progress:

1. **Signage** –A draft proposal is in progress and is promised for the spring of 2013.
2. **Parking:** More information is in the process of being installed at the signs. FOPI questions the value of revenues collected by the City versus the cost of operation as it discourages many people from using the area.
3. **Review of washroom operation** – the daily hours it is open and the length of the season are of some concern. It could be improved using partner organizations
4. **The e coli counts** were better this year resulting in fewer closures, unfortunately many of the closures could be attributed to geese pollution and the e coli counts were quite high. These issues need to be monitored and improved.
5. **Shelter** – the addition of shelters and other amenities should be addressed in the Master plan which makes no mention of these facilities
6. **The increased use of the park area** for large special events and the balance required to protect the natural area also needs to be reviewed in the Master Plan. A special study is needed to evaluate the effects of large events during turtle nesting season, mid to late June. Turtles continue to nest and hatch in various parts of Steumer park, hatchlings were discovered in late August and early September of this year.
7. **The location of large events** should be moved from the East Beach to the centre area, the East beach was blocked off to the general public for several days for each of two large events this year. This was recommended last year but not implemented.
8. **Create twice yearly meetings** of Staff and user groups to review operations and make improvements
9. **Planned replacement of the canoe launch dock** has not been completed

Al Tweddle, Chair, Friends of Petrie Island
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FRIENDS OF PETRIE ISLAND EXECUTIVE

Chair	Al Tweddle
Vice-chair	Bob Gray – resigned in May 2012
Secretary	Paul Le Fort
Treasurer	Steve McPhee
Website	David Villeneuve
Members at Large	Gil LeBlanc, Doug Drouillard
Interpretive Program Committee	Paul Le Fort, Al Tweddle, Bill Bower,

**Friends of Petrie Island
Financial Statement
From 01 January 2012 – 31 December 2012**

Bank balance as at 31 December 2011 \$10456.08

REVENUES

Grants	Careers Canada	13,569.00
City		<u>7,964.00</u>
Sub total		21,533.00
Membership		60.00
Misc. (Drinks, Donations, books, etc)		446.01
Programs		902.00
E-Day KOC		<u>93.13</u>
Sub-total		1501.14
Total		23,034.14
		23,034.14

EXPENSES

Salaries	Careers Canada	13,344.00
	City	7,133.29
	Receiver General	1,923.18
	WSIB	291.27
Sub total		22,691.74
Administration		172.53
Admin supplies		898.56
Interpretation		541.93
Bank charges		69.88
Phone		345.49
Drinks	.	27.79
Vet		75.71
Sub total		25,356.40
Net surplus (deficit)		(2322.26)
Bank balance 31 Dec 2012		8133.82
City Grant		40,340.70

**Appendix A - Statistical
Information**

TABLE 1

	PETRIE ISLAND ATTENDANCE							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
MAY	6,294	16,165	17,270	21,365	9,010	13,970	38,130	21,330
JUNE	14,436	71,213	52,920	55,411	35,630	46,510	35,559	67,202
JULY	48,137	115,072	93,243	70,160	55,340	72,450	106,280	111,220
AUGUST	57,718	60,063	43,916	61,960	42,100	55,340	59,794	45,297
SEPT	27,304	21,860	12,500	23,760	18,170	29,550	16,848	19,210
TOTAL	153,889	284,377	219,849	232,656	160,250	217,820	256,611	264,259
CANADA DAY		24,000	24,000	18,500	22,000	22,000	22,000	18,000

TABLE 2

	BEACH OPERATION							
	Days when E-coli values over 100 in BOLD (this is not the same as the beach closures)							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
BRITANNIA	4	2	2	2	1	3	5	20
WESTBORO	14	22	22	14	23	13	13	29
MOONEYS B	1	27	12	2	5	11	8	35
PETRIE ISL.	6	17	48	6	19	18	7	26
PETRIE ISL. E. BEACH						7	14	36
SAMPLING DAYS					combined			3
CITY BEACHES	65	75	75	74	64	67	65	65
PETRIE IS.	65	75	75	74	64	67	65	65

TABLE 3

	VOLUNTEER HOURS							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
WORK	925	721	593	757	597	461	562	603
MONITORS	370	433	343	364	414	349	466	423
ADMINISTRATION	253	260	346	314	474	280	293	396
INTERPRETIVE	567	323	308	590	184	173	154	135
TOTAL	2,115	1,737	1,630	2025	1669	1263	1475	1557

PAID HOURS

780 550 850 980

TABLE 4

	DONATIONS AND GRANTS in Dollars							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
DONATED MATERIAL	400	400	300	400	700	900	600	400
DONATED LABOR	21,150	17,370	16,300	20,250	16,690	12,630	14,750	17,127
TOTAL DONATED	21,550	17,770	16,600	20,650	17,390	13530	15,350	17,527
TRILLIUM GRANTS	4,900							
H.R.S.S.	2,500	3,000	6,000	5,900	6,200	7,302	7,773	7,165
PARTNERSHIPS with Ottawa Stewardship Council	5,000	7,000				498		
TOTAL GRANTS	12,400	10,000	6,000	5,900	6,200	7,800	7,773	7,165
TOTAL \$ VALUE	33,950	27,770	22,600	26,550	23,950	21,320	23123	24,692