

2021 UPTON AGM PRESIDENTS REPORT

Here is a summary of what we have been up to the this past year...

MULT-USE/BIKE TRAIL

We discussed this topic at last years meeting and if you recall, the Trust was unwilling to allow the asphalt paths that were being requested by the Province, for a proposed bike trail, or Multi-Use trail, as our NAPA management guidelines do not permit this. We also discussed our concerns about the governments position on how easy it would be to change those NAPA provisions. At the meeting last year, we discussed possibly amending our bylaws to ensure future boards could not easily erode our NAPA protections.

After consulting with Mark Arsenault on the NAPA technical advisory committee, it turns out that this is not necessary as we would not be able to decrease any of the protections in our NAPA agreement. It is just not possible, SO this was great news to hear and gave us the ability to end the discussion asphalt paths outright. Marie-Ann, Beth and myself met with Sean Murphy and Gord McNeily after hearing they planned a public meeting February

25th/21 about the proposed trail and we informed them of the NAPA news, expressed our disappointment in being excluded from the conversation and meetings regarding the trail and for the release of a very misleading YouTube video promoting the trail over Upton property. We also suggested that they pursue the 100 foot strip of land the province already owned along the Upton Road for the multi-use trail. In the end this is what has occurred, as many of you have seen along the Upton Road. And as an FYI, The province had given us the heads up by letting us know in advance of this project and sent us the engineering plans ahead of the start, so we were well informed of this in advance, which was greatly appreciated. So hopefully this chapter is closed.

PARKS & REC MONTH

In April we were contacted by Recreation PEI to help celebrate “Parks and Recreation Month” in June 2021. The theme was "nature education for all ages" and the purpose was to encourage islanders to head outside and explore the beautiful natural spaces across PEI. In partnership with McPhail Woods and the PE Home, on June 28th, Gary Schneider took a group of PE home residents on a tour of the south side of Upton to learn about the Confederation Forest. This was done in the PE

home's "Breezer" vehicle. The event was titled "a tour through our confederation Forest-a haven for native plants and animals now and in the future. And I'm told that the residents really enjoyed their tour and we hope to do this again in the future. And next year hopefully we can come up with another event for Parks and Recreation month.

CN TREES (slide)

As a follow-up to last years discussion on the CN Trees, some volunteers and some of us board members gathered to tend to many of the CN trees for pruning, removal of mouse guards etc. Six trees had died and many needed fairly extensive pruning. We have only completed the southside so far. We will attend to the northside in the spring and summer of 2022.

TRUCK PARKING (SLIDE)

We have had an ongoing problem with long haul trucks parking overnight at the Maypoint parking lot, despite taking down plate numbers and calling the companies. Recently we have contacted the city police who said the next step would be towing and they could look after that. When I called the four main companies again with the latest plate #'s and truck #'s and very politely told them

that the trucks would be towed the next time they were seen at our location the problem has seem to have stopped. If anyone does see a truck there, which is usually on the weekends, please photograph the plate truck number and email it to me. We had actually been contacted by Mark Arsenault from NAPA asking us to do all we could to try and stop them from parking there (our NAPA deed does not allow overnight parking), so that's what we are doing. Thank you.

TREE CANADA EVENT (slide)

Tree Canada chose the Upton Farmlands to commemorate the 10th anniversary of "National Tree Day". 15 volunteers including six adults, six children, two board members, and one mayor, planted 180 trees in approximately three hours. We planted in three locations all surrounding or near the three existing parking lots. Species included such trees as red maple, red oak, balsam fir, Ironwood, white pine and so on. The trees were sourced from the Provincial nursery and Arbor nursery. We also were given an allowance for maintenance to cover costs such as mulch, compost, delivery, a watering truck, etc. Susan and I installed mouse guards on the new trees last weekend. We were thrilled to get yet another tree planting on Upton and hope to see many more of these events take place in the future.

BOARD APPOINTMENT

At last years meeting we updated you all that Beth Hoar was retiring from the City of Charlottetown and that Jessika would be taking over her position on the board. Beth was subsequently appointed to a board seat (with a bit of arm twisting), that had been previously occupied by Nancy Pierce, who finished her appointment last year. We are incredibly grateful to Beth for staying on with us, as her years of experience with Upton as well as her expertise in reforestation, is irreplaceable. Beth also serves as Chair of the PEI Invasive Species Council and is finding retirement every bit as busy as full time employment.

BARB TRAINOR

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to remember a friend and original member of the Upton Farm Preservation Network. Barb Trainor. We were very saddened to hear that Barb lost her battle with ovarian cancer this fall. I last spoke with Barb in the spring and she was still optimistic and sounded just like she always did...full of life and energy and heading out the door on her bike for yet another adventure. Barb was involved with Upton from the very early days, going back probably 15 years and was on the original board at the Trust's inception. Barb actually

taught me many years ago at Queen Charlotte, so we had a long history and she always gave the greatest advice. I'm sure many of you knew her and will miss her as well.

That sums up my report for this year. Could move to accept the Presidents report?

Can someone please second?

The report has been accepted.