

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT 2025**

The President's report is essentially how I update you all on the activities of the past year. While we typically do another report under "Infrastructure" these two overlap to such a degree that I will covering both together here.

This year has seen less activity on the property than in years past, with more emphasis going toward future projects and seeking out grants opportunities.

Several grants we have applied for include a community grant for the water fountain, a City sponsored Forestry Management grant, and a Tree Canada grant.

### **Water Fountain/R.O.W (SLIDE)**

Last year I spoke about our continued efforts to get a water line/fountain installed at Upton. Jessika and I met with the head of Water for the City and one issue that arose was the lack of a legal ROW on the entrance road off of Regis Duffy. The province has agreed to provide this and the document has been drawn up and just needs to be reviewed before we sign off on it. Some items such as future maintenance still needs to ironed out. That being said, I'm happy to report that the Community Grant that we

applied for last fall was successful and we have been granted \$5000 to go toward this project. This adds to the \$5000 that we have earmarked from the Roundabout Project funds (year?) we received from the Province. The next stage is to get some more accurate quotes and we hope to have this installed by fall.

### **Humane Society**

Late July, we had a few members of the Animal Protection team from the Humane Society do an educational event on the property.

They had dog treats, water, and reflective armbands to hand out to Upton visitors. It was a very friendly meet and greet sort of situation. The parking lot was full when I arrived at 10.

They thanked users for having their dogs on leash and mostly just chatted with people in an informal sort of fashion. I had a good long talk with them. I explained the layout and the issues that we are having.

The APO, (Shannie) animal protection officer, was excellent! We came up with a plan that would not require a heavy use of their resources, but would hopefully accomplish what we needed. They agreed to drive the van through the property from one end to the other, (parking lot to parking lot) on a regular basis, as often as they can. Typically when they are making calls to Cornwall. They would also park their van in one of our parking lots while

they work on case notes, or have lunch, just to establish a presence.

I have actually heard from a number of walkers that they have seen them 'enforcing' the City Bylaws, so hopefully this is having an effect.

### **Hazard Trees**

We continue to deal with fallen trees on the property, namely in the hedgerow path area, some of which were weakened by Fiona and some that are simply due to dead and dying aging trees. After a windstorm, there are often trees that fall or lean close to trails that need to come down. We have a great 'guy' that can clean up most of these and then we call out the big guns like Kurt Laird for the more complicated trees. Work was done out by the roundabout, along the walking trail and in the hedgerow this past year and we recently completed a walk through and have identified additional trees to come down in the near future.

### **Tree Pruning**

This past year, Ruth has been focusing on the maintenance of our trees, mainly those that we have planted over the years. Both Kurt Laird and MacPhail's

have been contracted to prune our trees along the Trans Canada Highway and the groups of trees in the large planting to the east of the asphalt path. Some large Scotch Pines were also removed (invasive). MacPhails will also be doing additional pruning this year, on the other side of the path.

## **Invasive Species Removal (SLIDE)**

In October, we held an Invasive Species removal event on the south side. Some of us, along with Ellens' Creek Watershed Group, The PEI Invasive Species Council, the City, and a few volunteers got together to tackle glossy buckthorn, and multi flora rose. This will be ongoing, as there is not shortage of invasive on the property.

## **Mowing**

Last year we had the paths mowed twice, by DNS, who used a bug hog and this year we hope to be able to maintain the paths with a mower. Some of the paths are too narrow for the bush hog, and it is more expensive, but it was necessary to deal with some of the overgrowth.

We will be increasing the frequency to three times a year going forward. Chris has found someone to take on this job with a ride on mower.

## **Encampments**

We had several instances last year of homeless encampments on the property. This will likely be an ongoing issue so if you come across a site, please inform us. The police are great to assist and it can be dangerous to approach these sites. I haven't heard of any so far this year, but as the weather warms up, I assume the camping will begin again. Among other concerns, drug paraphernalia is the main concern as we have seen in the past just how dangerous for dogs this can be.

## **Signage (Slide)**

Some new signage was recently installed marking on and off leash trails in the hedgerow and replacing vandalized signs. We still have some signs that are delaminated that need to be replaced and Ruth has suggested installing a few signs identifying areas that are sensitive for ground nesting birds where we want to remind people of the importance of keeping dogs leashed and sticking to the paths.

## **Osprey Nests**

Over the last couple of years, it has been briefly mentioned that various island locations have naturally occurring or manmade osprey nests. At our April meeting of this year the topic of osprey nests was discussed

once again and Maritime Electric was brought up as maybe being a company to approach to see if it is something that they could provide. Susan Frizzell briefly spoke with Angus Orford and the response was very positive. Maritime Electric will put the pole and platform up in a suitable location for the farm so a formal letter has been sent as of last month, May, 2025. Upton provides an ideal location as osprey nest near water locations. This is welcoming and exciting news for the farm and we will provide more information when it becomes available. Stay tuned.

## **Cornwall Watershed Project SLIDES (2)**

This spring, we were contacted by the Cornwall and Area Watershed Group about doing a project at Upton, namely on the South Side.

The Watershed group looks at maps of the waterfront, identifying areas they see as unprotected.

They focus on tree coverage in our waterway buffer zones by planting native trees and shrubs on up to 3 hectares of buffer zones annually. Trees and shrubs are planted at no cost to the landowners, and the group returns to the site every 1-2 years for pruning and maintenance.

Some of us met onsite and toured the shoreline on the south side and discussed preserving important views while also protecting the shoreline by using low growing shrubs like bayberry and strategic plantings of native trees.

#### Primary Goals:

- Wind and salt tolerant shrubs and trees
- Preserving water views
- Protecting the shoreline
- Providing berries for birds
- and wind protection for walkers.

Under this plan, shrubs would be planted in 5 patches of varying densities (SLIDE) and trees would be planted in two stands further to the south at a density of one tree per 9 square meters (approx. 10 ft spacing).

They estimated this area would hold approximately 766 trees and shrubs. And they would also be interested in partnering with Upton Farm Trust to plant other shoreline and buffer zone sites in the future.

#### **Upton Project Zones (SLIDE)**

In late April, the board met on site, walking the property to identify maintenance needs, areas of invasive species and future planting opportunities. We decided to split the property into six zones to help organize and identify areas.

### **Provincial Nursery Trees**

While we did not enjoy any tree planting opportunities this past year, Ruth was able to secure 100 beautiful trees for the Trust from the JP Gaudet Provincial Nursery to be planted in the next week or so.

We will be looking for volunteers to assist us in getting these planted, so if you are willing and able, we'd love you to join us. The species that were purchased, at \$7/tree were:

- Red Maple
- White Pine
- White spruce
- White Birch
- Willow
- Larch

## **Tree Canada Grant/City Forestry Project (SLIDE)**

The City of Charlottetown, in partnership with Upton Farmlands Trust, applied for funding from the “Treemendous Communities Funding Grant” through Tree Canada. The project would include invasive species management (mainly glossy buckthorn and multiflora rose), native tree and shrub planting, and community engagement activities. This project would focus on an area near the shoreline and Trans Canada on the south side.

This grant would provide up to \$10,000 which the City would put toward two project goals:

1. Invasive species management and,
2. Expansion of the existing tree canopy via mini forest planting.

Funding approval for this project is pending.

## **Benches (SLIDE)**

We would like to install additional benches on the property. There are currently four on the North side and none on the South side. We will likely go with benches that have a back rest. The red dots are the current benches and the blue dots are possible locations of new benches, taking advantage of views.

The remaining updates fall under 'Infrastructure' so I'll wrap this up and move on to that.

Can someone please move to accept this report?

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Thank you.