

# **2020**

## **UPTON AGM**

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Here is a summary of what we have been up to this past year.....  
and a half!

#### **FITZGERALD AND SNOW**

It came to my attention in January by the company Fitzgerald and Snow that they had been using older surveys and as a result inadvertently paved approximately 2000sq ft of Upton land on one of the adjacent properties being developed (SEE SLIDE)! They were great to bring this to our attention and were happy to remediate this in whatever way was required. It was their hope to be able to purchase the land, however as we are unable to sell

any lands owned by the Trust, and as the lands are protected under NAPA, they understood our position, and removed the asphalt and reseeded the land.

## **OFF LEASH AREA**

When we met last year, we were getting ready to begin this project, which honestly, seemed to take forever to get going. We started the project by improving the available trails. Albert Flavell, a professional trail builder, along with some volunteer labour, worked for several weekends and trails were improved and created to increase the the usable paths within the off leash area. The Province covered the costs associated with this work and we thank them for this. These new and improved paths are now widely used and have made the initially smaller area seem much larger. This new trail goes through the south boundary hedge row, giving a great wind and sun break and a gorgeous woods trail experience and then follows the riverfront along the shore to the beach area and on to the asphalt path. Early fall saw the installation of the off leash fencing and after some early issues, including some vandalism, we then got the signage installed. Unfortunately, there were delays in the signage install and I think that caused some of the problems, initially. There is no

doubt this was a big adjustment for the hundreds of users and it did take some time but overall, things are now running very smoothly, overall.

## **MULTI-USE TRAIL**

At last years meeting, Ernie Morello and Shawn Murphy came and discussed a project (The West Royalty Trail) they were working on that would potentially involve Upton property. This initiative involved utilizing existing trails, Maritime Electric easements, Government owned lands, etc, in an attempt to piece together a patchwork of trails in order to connect West Royalty to Downtown Charlottetown. We didn't hear from them again until January, when I was contacted by Shawn Murphy asking me to meet to discuss new developments in that area. Apparently a committee had been struck within the Department of Transportation regarding a Multi Use Trail that would use funds from the Carbon Tax Fund with the City of Charlottetown paying the ongoing maintenance costs and they were asking for Upton's participation.

While we were initially excited about this prospect, as we have always endeavoured to expand user-ship on the Upton property, we very quickly hit a roadblock. It turned out that the use of

asphalt was very high on their wish list for this trail. For this reason, this project has become much more complicated than originally thought and is why I have put this on the agenda under New Business, so we can discuss it further a little later. It also involves how we deal with certain aspects of our NAPA agreement in the future.

## **PAYPAL GIVING FUND**

We finally have the PayPal Giving Fund up and running on our website. We discussed this briefly last year under the topic of donations. While anyone can donate at any time and receive a charitable tax receipt, giving in this manner, through the PayPal giving fund allows the donor to use a credit card where 100% of the donation goes to Upton and Upton does not have the burden of filing any paperwork so it's a win-win. We have not pursued fund raising in a meaningful way due to having had the lump sum received out of the bypass settlement. These funds as well as 'in-kind' contributions from both the City and the Province have negated the need to fund raise so far. This will change and it does not mean we do not need donations as a whole. Those lump sums will run out. So if you are feeling generous, by all means, donate! If you can't donate funds, there are other ways

to help out, such as planting trees and showing up at these meetings and someday, serving on the board.

## **BOARD SEATS**

Speaking of the board...I want to take a moment and thank Nancy Pierce who left our board this year at the end of her appointment. Nancy joined the board in 2017 and is the person to thank for designing our signage. She has also volunteered to keep doing any signage for us in the future. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Beth Hoar. Beth and I started on the original board back in 2011 with Beth being the City of Charlottetown representative. Beth brought her incredible depth of knowledge with her as a parkland conservationist and while she recently retired from the City, with a fair bit of begging, she has agreed to stay on with us, and we couldn't be more pleased. Beth loves Upton. She truly cares about its health and its future and we are truly grateful for her work and dedication. The bonus is that we also get Jessika! Jessika is Beths' replacement on the board representing the City of Charlottetown. Our first introduction to Jessika was via ZOOM, but Jessika and I have toured Upton together and I know she will, like Beth, grow to love Upton like the rest of us. So, welcome Jessika!

## **CN/TREE CANADA**

In September, Upton was the lucky recipient of 100 Beautiful large caliper trees that were planted on either side of the Trans Canada highway on the Upton property. These trees were part of the 100th anniversary of CN Rail and made possible by TREE CANADA. I spoke at an event in November and Upton received a beautiful plaque that will be installed on the property on the South Side.

## **TREE CANADA/TELUS**

Several weeks ago we were also the recipient of 35 beautiful [large caliper](#) trees donated to us from Tree Canada via Telus. They were planted in and around the parking lot off of Regis Duffy and consist of Red Oak, Sugar Maple and White Birch. [They](#) will add a great deal of beauty to a somewhat barren area. (SLIDE)

## **CARBON CAPTURE PROGRAM/FOREST ENHANCEMENT**

At last year's AGM we announced our inclusion in this program but in the end, we were put off in favour of farm properties until

sometime in the future. Luckily, we got back in this fall with very little notice and we **were** actually offered additional hectares of trees. We should end up with somewhere between 5-7 hectares of trees which could result in almost 12,000 trees being planted on the property. (Approximately 9000 planted this year so far and they expect to finish in the spring). Tree species consist of white spruce, white pine, red oak and sugar maple. (show map)

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

Can someone please second?

The report has been accepted.