

2018 UPTON AGM PRESIDENTS REPORT

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

CRA

As I stated in my email some time ago, we finally achieved our Charitable Status with CRA after 5 years. What does this mean for the Trust?

In a nutshell, it means that we are now a registered charity with the Government of Canada. It allows donors to claim their donations and receive a tax credit and we hope that this will encourage people to donate to Upton.

The amount of your tax credit will depend on the amount of the donation.

“To encourage donations, the federal and provincial governments provide a two-tiered credit system. Add up all your donations. The amount up to \$200 qualifies for a tax credit at the lowest tax rate. The amount over \$200 qualifies for a credit at the highest tax rate.

When the federal and provincial programs are combined, taxpayers reduce their taxes by about 25% of the total donated up to \$200. (The exact amount varies by province.)

For the amount over \$200, the saving is about 45%, which again, varies by province.”

Donations made by one spouse / common-law partner can be claimed by either one. To maximize the credit, all donations should be lumped together. It doesn't matter by which person, they can use the credit as long as they pay taxes.

Some or all of your donations may be carried forward for up to five years. This should be done to take advantage of the higher credit over \$200. "

Having Charitable Status also places greater restrictions on the Trusts activities and has additional annual filing requirements, but we see this as a large step forward for our organization.

Once we get past a few more time sensitive matters, we will put an emphasis and this and other fundraising goals, but if anyone was wondering, we do have our official receipts printed and ready to go!

BYPASS PROJECT

As for the arrangement we had with the Province regarding the use of our property for staging of the road work, this has proven more complicate than originally thought, and we are still working our way through it, However, we did negotiate a payout for several of the line items, which I will address later tonight.

DOG ON SOUTH SIDE

One change that we have made regarding dog walking policy is that we have decided that rather than having a NO DOG policy on the south side, near the PE Home, we will allow dogs ON LEASH for a trial period of one year. This was discussed and debated extensively and the decision was made based on the fact that all City parks allow dogs on leash and the Upton property connects to two other dog friendly trails at Beach Grove and the new Trans Canada multi use lane. It is also frequented by residents of the neighbouring homes walking with dogs, and without.

However, This property is full of hundreds of newly planted trees and the residents, staff and visitors of the PE Home and Beach Grove use to property for their enjoyment. It is for these reasons

that **dogs must always be leashed.** IF we find that people are not respecting our ON LEASH policy, and picking up after their dogs, we will no longer allow dogs to be walked there.

BOARD MEMBERS

While most board seats are for a two year term and some one, we occasionally have members who, for various reasons, cannot complete their terms. We have had two board members resign recently and we filled the remaining balance of their terms with two new board members, as per our Bylaws. Susan Frizzell and Grant Johnson have graciously agreed to join the board, with terms that will run until this time, next year. Susan and Grant have both been actively supportive members of the Trust for many years and we all look forward to having them join us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kenneth Lecky for his time on the board and Doug MacDonald who gave an incredible amount of time and effort to this organization. Doug served on this board for 5 years and was instrumental in making the Trust run smoothly.

OFF LEASH ZONE

While we had hoped to get our off leash zone officially established last year, we simply ran out of time. There are two main factors in getting this set up: fencing and signage. While we have a signage allowance from the Province, the time from ordering to delivery has proven to be very long, and we did not want to fence the area without the necessary signage. I am told some of the signage we are waiting for should be ready in the near future.

As I have stated before, but will repeat for those who may be new to us, we will be establishing an off leash area within the

property. While dogs have basically had free run of the Upton Farmlands property, this was always temporary.

When we negotiated the transfer of this land from government to the Trust, several provisions were included. Mainly, the land was to be kept as natural as possible. The land was placed under the protection of the NATURAL AREAS PROTECTION ACT. This act offers the best long term protection from development and expropriation, eliminates property taxes and guides us in our activities allowed on the land. The NAPA deed also restricts the amount of land we can designate as off leash to 20 acres and this is the amount of land we will in fact designate. Adherence to this **RULE** is imperative for Upton to maintain it's status with NAPA as well as for Upton to thrive. So, while I am acutely aware that this will be an adjustment, I am counting on the members and users to respect the property, by respecting the rules set forth by the Trust.

Thank you. That concludes my report.

I'm sure some of you have questions and I'll be happy to answer them later in the meeting. We'd like to move through our agenda and can get in to discussion in the Q&A period. Otherwise, it makes it very hard to stay on track.

Can I have a member move to accept the Presidents Report?

Can someone second?

The report has been accepted.

