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The President Reports

by Jean-Marc Purenne

Since our first AGM last fall our membership has nearly tripled to 250—a very satisfying indication of public interest and support. It is helpful for the board to remember this when we address the many administrative things that remain to be done in setting up this new organization.

The role of Friends is to work with parks management in support of the park's interpretation and educational programs. We have reached the final stages of negotiating an agreement with the park that describes how we will work together and finance our activities. Fundamental to that agreement is a business plan which anticipates our revenues and expenses over the next three years. Our agreement with the park, like those of Friends of National Parks across Canada, will involve some degree of support from our park partner during this interim period when we are getting on our feet.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read about our growing band of volunteers and some remarkable contributions that are being made to our progress, in developing a suitable database and image for Friends of Gatineau Park. This willingness to contribute—which has also been expressed in donations—is very gratifying.

The Board regrets to announce the resignation of Louise Brault, a long-time Chelsea resident who knows the park intimately.

The next AGM will take place on September 27. Claude Cousineau, our vice president, is chairing our nominations committee, which is charged with preparing a list of candidates available for positions that will become vacant in September.



Take a Hike!

In Gatineau Park, July 15

Saturday, July 15, is Canada's Parks Day. Each year, "Take-A-Hike", an event co-ordinated across Canada by Canadian Parks Partnership, is held to celebrate our parks.

What about Gatineau Park? With the help of volunteers and other organizations, the Friends of Gatineau Park plan to offer a program of interesting activities, July 15 that will help visitors to discover more and better appreciate their park.

To launch such a program we need your help. If you could be available for a couple of hours during that weekend, please call Susan Spoke, (819) 827-2677.

Canadian Parks Partnership, to which we belong, represents 65 co-operating associations and over 15,000 volunteers who support natural and historical parks across Canada.

Get involved!

A New Look

Many visitors to the Gatineau Park in winter have experienced the thrill of having a chickadee come to the hand, expecting seeds. The evocative image in the logo, above, symbolizes the caring relationship and understanding of park values that Friends of Gatineau Park seek to promote.

The logo was designed by Roberta Gal, a professional designer and Friends member.

Bill Mason Honoured at Visitor Centre

One of the rooms in the new Park Visitor Centre on Scott Road has been dedicated to Bill Mason, an outstanding film-maker, artist and conservationist, who died in 1988.

A ceremony marking the dedication was attended by family and friends on April 12.

Become a Volunteer!

Membership is the foundation of all Friends activities. Over 250 people joined us in the first few months; so thank you for your early support. From members come volunteers and others who support the park and its protection. We want to recreate a real sense of family on behalf of the park. So why not get even more involved as a volunteer!

Call, or e-mail me: Susan Spoke (819)827-2677; sspoke@magma.ca



Shining examples

Our first two volunteers have already contributed an extraordinary amount of time and talent. The first, Lady Tinor, took on the design of our wonderful database which contains all our information about members, their interests and specialities.

Roberta Gal has virtually volunteered her talents as a graphic designer by charging us next to nothing to create a logo, and other design elements.

New Grants for Kids Programs

Canadian Parks Partnership has launched Kids@Parks, which offers grants to Friends groups who develop programs to bring kids to park and parks to kids! More on that later.

Keeping in Touch

Write or e-mail us (see address in box)

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Read our past Friends Issues: **Winter 2000 Newsletter**



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