



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

November 27, 2008

7:00 pm

Corbeil Park Hall

320 Hwy 94, Corbeil

1. Call to Order

Mark King called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

The following Resolution was carried:

Resolution No. 01-11-27-08 Christian/Corbeil

“That the minutes of the October 3, 2007 Discovery Routes Annual General Meeting be accepted.”

3. Chair's Report

It has been another tremendous year for Discovery Routes. The organization continues to operate out of the Information Centre and North Bay Chamber of Commerce with the support of all our volunteers and partners.

Trails appear to be gaining renewed attention throughout the Province. During a recent consultation on Ontario's tourism competitiveness, a recurring theme among participants was the need to invest in our local trails as an attraction. The Ministry of Health Promotion has recognized the value of trails and has provided some modest support for programming. Unfortunately, legislation regarding trails remains fragmented between provincial ministries creating significant challenges to trail development. And there is currently no significant financial commitment from the province for administration or for capital development. Our own challenges with administrative sustainability are not unique but are reflected across the province.

Despite the challenges met by trail developers, locally the commitment to trails is solid. It is encouraging to see that groups like the Voyer Trail Committee continue to focus on creating such incredible opportunities for the community. Discovery Routes is committed to working with this committee to take this project through the fundraising and development stage. I hope to be standing here one year from now cutting the ribbon to this connecting corridor between Corbeil and North Bay.

Numerous other clubs and associations have seen success throughout the year in their own endeavours. Following this report, I will open the floor to our trail partners to highlight some of your accomplishments over the past year.

Our greatest accomplishment this year has been the completion of Trans Canada Trail in Callander's southwest corner. This is a project that has been ongoing for over eight years. It persevered through our uncertain times and through numerous funding extensions.

The trail is unsurpassed in natural beauty. Although it is currently a well-kept secret in Callander's quiet backcountry, trail users seem to be finding it. The South Shore/ Restoule Snowmobile Club will use it this winter as an official snowmobile trail. Equestrians, ATVer's, hikers and mountain bikers are also using it. Discovery Routes will be hosting an official opening ceremony next Spring to formally welcome the public and increase the awareness of the trail.

This project has a second phase that will bring the paved portion of the Kate Pace Way into Callander. This phase is on hold until the Municipality of Callander completes water line work along Cranberry Road.

Continuing with the momentum of the success of Trans Canada Trail in Callander, we are working with the City of North Bay to raise funds to finally complete the 'missing link' along Booth and Birch's Road. We are anticipating a major announcement early next year regarding funding.

Over the past year, Discovery Routes has made a notable improvement to the information and resources available for the region's trails. Early last year, Discovery Routes launched a campaign to strengthen **membership** in the organization. The program has been moderately successful, attracting a modest number of members to Discovery Routes. We will continue to expand the membership to include municipalities and more business opportunities in the upcoming year.

Along with the membership, Discovery Routes brought back our **quarterly newsletter, *Trail Tales***. The newsletter is distributed through the Internet and has received fantastic feedback from our partners.

The **new trail map** has been another tremendous accomplishment for the organization, filling a long-time gap in the trail information available to trail users visiting the area. It is our intention to re-print the trail map on an annual basis to ensure that it remains current. The map has been distributed throughout the region at information centres, through municipalities, the health unit and through local events and festivals. As an extension of the map, a new **Resource Guide** is now available for sale. The Resource Guide has been created for the hospitality industry to provide detailed information on local trails, trail activities and trail experiences, as well as services available related to trail use. Municipal and business members will receive the Resource Guide free-of-charge as part of the membership package.

Looking ahead to the upcoming year, Discovery Routes will continue to work towards sustainability. We are looking forward to getting more youth out onto our trails with the introduction of the Pathways to Learning program that is still in the development stages at this time. This is a program that is being supported by the Communities in Action Fund. We will also be assisting the Municipality of Whitestone to develop a series of non-motorized trails around the communities of Ardbeg and Dunchurch.

These and other projects are supported by various funding agencies. I would like to take the opportunity to thank some of our noteworthy supporters. These include Take Heart, the Ministry of Health Promotion, FedNor, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for your continued involvement in this worthwhile organization. Without the contribution of volunteers like all of you, Discovery Routes would not exist. Thank you for your time and commitment over the past year.

4. Treasurer's Report

Ken Turner presented the financial report on behalf of Discovery Routes.

Resolution No. 02-11-27-08 Reich/Bachelder

“That the 2007 Financial Report be accepted as presented”

6. Election of Officers

Mark King invited Laurie Ypya to preside over the Discovery Routes Election of Officers.

Resolution No. 03-11-27-08 Kitlar/Turner

“That Laurie Ypya be named Election Chairperson.”

Laurie opened the floor to further nominations for Officers and Directors. The question was called three times.

Resolution No. 04-11-27-08 Turner/Harriman

“That the election nominations are closed.”

The following motion was carried.

Resolution No. 05-11-27-08 Begin/Martel

“That the following slate of officers be appointed to Discovery Routes Trails Organization:

Mark King as Chair

Sharon Kitlar, Member-at-Large

Bill Beckett as Past-Chair

Vic Trahan, Member-at-Large

vacant Vice-Chair

Walter Reich, Member-at-Large

Ken Turner as Treasurer

David Thompson, Member-at-Large

Susan Christian as Secretary

Mike Martel, Member-at-Large

Laurie Bachelder as Member-at-Large”

7. Presentation of New Executive

8. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Resolution No. 06-11-27-08 Ypya/Tucker

“That the meeting be adjourned.”