

Dear friends of the Cataraqi Trail

The 104 km long Cataraqi Trail has had unprecedented attention over the past couple of years with maintenance, upgrades & new projects creating vastly improved conditions, easier access and increased use. 2016 will be no exception to this with even larger improvement projects and great trail events planned for the year ahead!

2015 saw the completion of key trail improvements, particularly at the east end at Smiths Falls with the completion of a major trail widening and resurfacing project. We also had great events along the trail this past year with our annual Bike or Hike event in Chaffey's Lock and the amazing fundraiser dinner at The Opinicon. We would like to thank all those that supported these trail events along with our generous trailside business partners!

Mark your calendars! The 2016 Bike or Hike event will be held on August 20th in Yarker and we would love to see you there to enjoy the trail and meet up for a bbq lunch at noon. The Opinicon fundraiser dinner will be held on September 30th in beautiful Chaffey's Lock. Last year's event sold out quickly so be sure to get your tickets early for this amazing evening of food and fun along The Rideau Canal! We have an active Facebook page (facebook.com/CataraqiTrail) and invite you to follow us there and share our posts on your own Facebook page to help spread the word!

Our plans for the year ahead include further trail widening & resurfacing with the focus being west of the junction with the K&P trail at Harrowsmith. As well, we intend to get detailed designs for a new pavilion to be placed along the trail at Harrowsmith to give trail users a spot to relax under some shelter. New gates

are also in the manufacturing process to be placed at several trailheads to help keep the trail exclusively for non-motorized traffic and use.

Beyond our planned improvement projects for the year, Mother Nature has a way of making sure we know who is really in charge and presents us with unforeseen challenges and expenses on an all too regular basis. From flooding due to beaver dams, washouts and invasive species, we see a long list of issues every year that require a lot of time, energy and money. A fairly extreme case of this faces us just this spring at the time of writing this newsletter. A severe washout of the trail occurred with the heavy rains between MacGillivray and Indian Lake Roads, closing over 10km of trail through a scenic area until repair can be made. This massive washout of the trail will require significant work with heavy equipment and funds that, at this point, we quite frankly do not have at our disposal.



Cataraqi Trail

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All of these ongoing initiatives (planned or otherwise) require significant funding, which is, in large part, made possible by individual donations from folks like you. Our fundraising events and annual donations are critical to continuing improvements and the long-term survival of the trail. As a trail user and supporter we hope you will consider making a contribution, 100% of which will be applied to trail upgrades and maintenance and are also fully tax deductible. Cheques made out to "CRCA" and noted for the Cataraqi Trail can be mailed to the CRCA and you will receive your tax donation receipt in the mail. For the first time, you can also now make your donation through the CRCA's website at www.crc.ca/cataraqi-trail-membership

Special thanks to our Community Partners:

McCormick's Country Store, Quinn's Meats, Sepp's Skis & Snowboards, JJ Cycle, Trailhead, Cyclepath/ Ted's Bike shop, Primetime Custom Screenprinting, Gears and Grinds, The Running Room, Frontenac Cycle and Sports, RL Fletcher Bike Shop, Jim's Gourmet Fries, Memory Lane Gift and Flower Shop, Desert Lake Gardens, Hillside Coffee Shop, Kingston Nurseries, Harrowsmith Bakery, Waterfall Tea Room.

We look forward to the year ahead and working with all our supporters, business partners and all of you that enjoy the use of The Cataraqi Trail!



2015 Trail Updates: new fencing on Rutledge Rd and Chaffey's Lock bridges.

We appreciate your support.

A PDF version of this newsletter and an online donation form is available on our website cataraquitrail.ca.

I would like to continue as a Cataraqi Trail Member. Enclosed is my tax-deductible \$25 membership fee.

I would like to make a charitable donation to the Cataraqi Trail. Enclosed is my contribution for:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 Other _____

Total Contribution (membership and/or donation) \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town/City _____

Postal Code _____

Phone No. _____

E-mail _____

I prefer to receive mailings by e-mail regular mail.

Payment Options:

Cheque (Please make cheque payable to Cataraqi Region Conservation Authority.)

Visa Mastercard

Number _____

Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please keep my donation anonymous.

An official tax receipt for all donations and memberships over \$10 will be mailed to you by the Cataraqi Region Conservation Authority.

Be sure to provide us with an up-to-date mailing or e-mail address. Thank you!

