

Friends of Petrie Island
Amis de l'île Petrie
Internet: www.petrieisland.org

REPORT TO CITY OF OTTAWA FOR THE SUMMER SEASON 2001 - OCTOBER

The Friends of Petrie Island operated the Petrie Island picnic area for the fourth year this past summer. This was the first year of operation with the new City of Ottawa, the previous three years were with the City of Cumberland.

An increasing number of people from across the region are discovering the area, and this along with continued use by those familiar with the Islands increased attendance from 34,970 in 2000 to 60,403 this year.

The Friends of Petrie Island would like to thank the City of Ottawa and its staff for the support they have received this year.

ORGANIZATION

- Fourth year of operating the picnic area: 1998 - 1 month; 1999 - 2 _ months; 2000 - 4 _ months, 2001 - 5 months
- Continued contacts with various associations: Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club (OFNC), Ottawa Duck club, local community associations, Riverkeepers, SHELL (Turtle Club) and various government bodies
- Raised funds to hire young people for increased monitoring
- Conducted survey on futures uses of Petrie Island

SITE IMPROVEMENTS, USING FUNDS FROM CITY AND DONATIONS

- Expanded picnic area west, cleaned up shoreline and expanded sand areas; sand donated by Roger Grandmaitre Ltd
- Built 11 new picnic tables, with materials donated by Home Depot
- Provided maintenance and cleanup of trail and shoreline outside picnic area
- Removed an abandoned shed
- Improved signage and display areas
- Majority of work was done Wednesday mornings. Two work days were also attended by the general public. Many Scout and Guide groups participated in clean ups in the picnic area and on the island.
- Built a memorial bench along Turtle Trail for nature observation in memory of Sid Burke, a FOPI member who passed away in April

OPERATION

- The City provided direct funds for toilet rental (4 _ months), materials and grass cutting (\$3,900) as well as services of staff for site improvement and garbage collection (\$3,550), for a total value of \$7,450 (the same as the previous year)
- Daily cleanup, site improvement, and monitoring of the area was provided by Friends of Petrie Island
- The bylaws were generally obeyed, including dogs on a leash, occasional foot patrols by bylaw officers and Police had a positive impact.
- Parking - up to 100 cars were counted on peak days, this was reduced to 70 when no parking signs were installed on one side of the road
- Litter problems were mainly caused by animals in garbage cans and debris washed up from the river

- FOPI used its own funds to hire students for week day and weekend monitors as it is getting more difficult to get volunteers. some students also volunteered time towards school requirements
- FOPI again worked with City staff to protect trees from Beavers (wrapped trees with wire mesh)

ATTENDANCE

- In previous years monitors counted people as they entered the site, but with increasing numbers this became more difficult; attendance in this report is based on hourly car counts in the parking lot, multiplied by a factor of 2.5- 3 (people per car) - numbers are person/hours of use (Table 1)
- Ideal weather as well as growing awareness of the area increased attendance by 70%
- On a good Sunday, attendance increased from 7 - 800 last year to 1000-2000 this year and weekdays saw 500 - 1000 people hours of use.

INTERPRETIVE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Continued program of monthly posters to educate the public on various natural aspects of Petrie Island and added interpretive boards, increased from 4 to 9 boards on display
- Produced updated brochures and new trail brochure
- Participated in Wildlife Festival at Carlingwood Mall in April, Canada Day and Steumer return in August
- Six open houses were held with nature displays, including 2nd Wildflower Walk and a Turtle Day
- Jim Robertson, one of our photographers, is working on a slide show featuring a “year in the life of Petrie Island”, he has taken over 2000 pictures to date
- Participated in a tour of the picnic area by City Councillors in June: Cumberland Car Rally; Ottawa River Keepers start up committee; shared vision planning session by the City of Ottawa;
- Made presentations to Scout and Guide groups and Orleans Kiwanis
- Our web site (www.petrieisland.org) was improved and we have received many positive comments
- Photos from the website were selected by the Geological Society of Canada for use in a poster
- Featured on a CHRO-TV segment on Cumberland and Citizen series on the use of the Ottawa river, Chairman was also interviewed for a CFRA program
- Petrie Island was again featured in:
 - local publications, Citizen, Orleans Star and Journal, East end Communiqué
 - Wildlife Festival map of nature sites in Eastern Ontario
 - OVMRC (Ham Radio Club) held emergency field exercise from the site in June

FOPI REQUESTS COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR:

1. Expansion of parking area
2. Friends of Petrie Island believe that the entire 25-acre sand excavation site should be developed as a passive recreation park and that any boating/boat launch facilities should be located well away from the present sand excavation site; plans should proceed to develop this area
3. Existing picnic/sand areas of the leased area be declared off limits to dogs, i.e. as provided in the Parks bylaw and presently applied in playground areas.

PROPOSALS FOR 2002

- Same operating season as 2001, May to October
- Add 20 - 50 parking spots
- Continue rental of flush toilet with twice weekly cleaning and add additional toilet for July and August
- build another picnic shelter

- Work on additional nature trails on Island and mainland shore
- Improve cottage or rent trailer to set up resource area for nature study (secure and use cottage next to occupied house, for storage and staff only)
- Incorporate and seek funds for the above to hire interpretive staff
- Expand interpretive program, with additional rotating signage, guided and self guided tours
- Increase grass cutting from 6 - 8 times
- Where possible have after hours check ie: 9 - 10 p.m. and look into a gate at entrance to the Island
- Increase membership base and donations

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Friends of Petrie Island Finances

	2000	2001
Main sources of FOPI Revenue		
Membership fees		\$ 425
Cash donations*		\$ 2425
*(Queenswood Heights, Fallingbrook, Villages Associations and AutoDesk Company contributed \$2000.)		
Main FOPI Expenses		
Operational	Weekend supervision	\$385
	Telephone	\$115
Interpretive		\$326
SUBTOTAL	\$826	\$2167
Donated Material		
	Sand from Grandmaitre	\$800
	Picnic tables (Home Depot)	\$300
	Photo materials (FOPI Members)	\$700
SUBTOTAL	\$1100	\$3751
CITY FUNDS		
Materials and supplies		\$2000
Grass cutting		\$400
Toilet rental		\$1500
		\$3900
Staff time for support, garbage collection, chain saw work, Machine operator		\$3550
TOTAL	\$7450	\$7450

FRIENDS OF PETRIE ISLAND EXECUTIVE

Chairman: Al Tweddle

Planning: Dave Villeneuve
 Dave Redmond

Vice Chairman: René Cloutier

Publicity: Pat LaForest

Secretary: Pete Waddell

At Large: Romeo Messier
Charles Raby

Treasurer: Steve McPhee

Management Committee: Al Tweddle
Paul Le Fort
Steve McPhee

Interpretive Program: Paul Le Fort
Al Tweddle
Bill Bower
Christine Hanrahan
Jim Robertson

TABLE 1 - PETRIE ISLAND ATTENDANCE

	TOTAL ATTENDANCE				DAILY AVERAGE			
	1998	1999	2000	2001	1998	1999	2000	2001
MAY	n.a.	3075	4089	5084	n.a.	99	131	164
JUNE	510	3943	4617	9517	n.a.	131	153	317
JULY	277	6852	10,974	18,672	n.a.	221	354	602
AUGUST	4576	6196	9881	19,674	147	200	319	635
SEPTEMBER	2596	3400	4500)	8,456	86	103	150	280
SEASON TOTAL	7959	23,466	34,970	60,403				

TABLE 2 - VOLUNTEER WORKERS

	1998	1999	2000	2001
WORK HOURS	448	572	658	479
MONITORS' & CAPTAINS' HOURS	387	810	806	919
ORGANIZATIONAL	78	90	110	120
INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM		230	250	530
TOTAL	913	1647	1824	2048
VALUE @ \$7.00/HOUR	\$6391	\$11,529	\$12,768	\$14,336
DONATED MATERIAL	\$1900	\$950.	\$1100	\$3751
TOTAL	\$8291	\$12,479	\$13,968	\$18,036