



## Friends of the FFC - Announcement:

As Chair of the Friends of the Ferguson Forest Centre, I am privileged to announce that we have a renewed purpose as a group of community volunteers.

The FFFC was originally established to communicate the concerns of a group of like-minded community members about the potential development of forest grounds and the future of the nursery. The nursery now enjoys the benefits of a long term lease and the forest is as popular as ever.

The focus of the Friends has therefore changed. Our future endeavors are now focused on recreational enjoyment and educational interests. The forest offers the public an environment where one can participate in many non-motorized activities. Peaceful walks or bike rides, horseback riding, snowshoeing and more can be enjoyed just minutes from your home in North Grenville. The nursery grounds also offer facilities for educational events.

As a volunteer group, this board of directors will continue to focus on supporting the Ferguson Forest Centre and engaging the public in recreational interests and educational opportunities.

Please enjoy this, our first newsletter of 2012. We hope that you will find it interesting reading.  
Sincerely, Trevor Buck  
Chair, Friends of the Ferguson Forest Centre.

**Board of Directors,  
Friends of the Ferguson Forest Centre:**  
the following Board of Directors was elected at our Annual General Meeting on Dec 1st 2011:

- Chair – Trevor Buck
- Vice-Chair – Katharine Church
- Past Chair – Colleen Morris-Wilson
- Secretary – Peter Bunn
- Treasurer – James Beckett
- Director – Communications – Jane Hunt
- Director – Membership – Ivan Russell
- Director – Trails – Susan Hunt
- Director – Trails – Margaret Zebarth
- Director at Large – Pat Babin

## FERGUSON FOREST CENTRE (FFC) REPORT

North Grenville Municipal representatives and Ferguson Forest Centre Inc personnel celebrated in December the final payment of loans incurred by the FFC to construct greenhouses during its early operation. The Mortgage was shredded!

Also attending this meeting were former mayors, Don Cameron and Bruce Harrison. Before current Mayor David Gordon officially shredded the Ferguson Forest Centre loan, FFC Board Chair John Wilson and FFC CEO Ed Patchell provided an update on just how far the Centre has come. The FFC, first a provincial operation, is now a non-profit organization named for former Ontario premier and Kemptonville native, G. Howard Ferguson.

Wilson noted that back in November, 2000, the FFC was at the beginning of a seven-year lease but had no staff or equipment, sales which grossed just over \$500,000 and had just one main product line: bareroot seedlings. The Centre also owed \$100,000 for a greenhouse loan.

Fast forward to December 2011: the FFC now has three full-time staff and 20 seasonal employees, \$2.3 million in assets (land, buildings, equipment and crops), and no debts. Sales have also jumped to \$1.3 million. FFC now features not just bareroot seedlings, but container stock, cuttings, gift trees, caliper trees, small and large potted plants, as well as whips and liners.

More than 45 species of native and naturalized trees and shrubs have been sold wholesale and retail; a total of 2.5 million plants have been sold by the FFC. The organization has gained stability and is in year four of a 25-year lease. Chemicals are no longer used; instead, staff rely on equipment for land maintenance.

Of particular interest to the Friends of the Ferguson Forest was Wilson's statement, "We are also a low traffic site for walking, hiking, running and dog walking, an integral part of the FFC for many, many people."

Editor's Note: The aforementioned was abridged from an article in EMC, written by Ashley Kulp and posted Dec. 15, 2011.

In October, **The Forestry Centre is home to the annual Book Fair**, in collaboration with the Friends of the NG Public Library, and Community Living NG.



Avid readers or bargain hunters have a ball!

### **A Code of Conduct on the Trails:**

- Keep it clean, keep it green.
- Take photos, not flowers.
- Pick up after your dogs, and take it home, with your garbage

- with appreciation, your fellow trail explorers.

### **FRIENDS of the FFC - UPCOMING EVENTS - come and enjoy**

#### **North Grenville Sustainability Fair –**

**Sunday April 22, 2012 - 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Info at [www.sustainablenorthgrenville.ca](http://www.sustainablenorthgrenville.ca)**

The Friends participate in this fair to raise awareness amongst the community about the Friends and its goals and objectives. Drop by our booth for handouts and hello.

#### **Spring Trail Clean-Up Day - Saturday April 28, 2012 - 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.**

Clean up will start at 9:00 am and volunteers will meet at the FFC office to receive their work assignments. Workers should come dressed for the weather (warm clothing, boots and work gloves) and students will be given credits for community service hours. Free refreshments will be served after clean up. Bring shears, Robertson screwdrivers, and clippers if you have them. A great way to become acquainted with a trail!

#### **Spring “Walk in the Woods” - Sunday May 20, 2012 - 10 am to 12:30 pm.**

Tentatively, this fun and educational walk will focus on wildlife and our ecosystem. The event is open to all. Participation is free for members and their families, and there will be a nominal fee charged to non-members who attend, to cover the cost of food.

**Membership Drive – June 23rd, 2012 - 8:30 am to 12:30 pm** - at Jonsson's Independent Grocer, Kemptville. Stop by and say hello, bring a new 'Friend'.

**Other News:** Spring has brought the growth of new **EVENT IDEAS**. If you like any of these (or give us your suggestions) and can volunteer a few hours to help with making any of our Events a reality, let us know.

Ideas for Events:

- Family Dog Day Walks
- Photography challenge- pick a theme, run a week long challenge, select a new, post on website or Facebook
  - best wildlife photo, best dog photo, best flower, leaf, moss, ...
- Music in the Pines

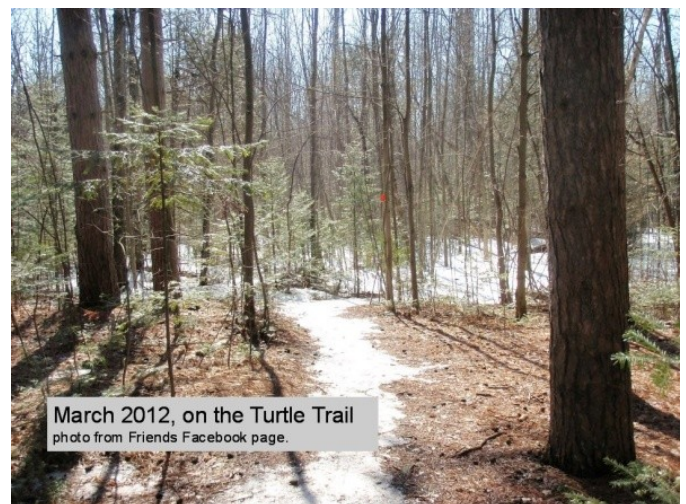
**Our website** at [www.friendsofthefergusonforest.ca](http://www.friendsofthefergusonforest.ca) is being updated, check out the updates of the Home page, Membership page, and more to come shortly.

**FFFC has a Facebook page** – “like” us and receive trail updates and other information:



<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Friends-of-Ferguson-Forest-Centre/256822071073400>

Here is a sample of what you may find on our Facebook page. Photo by Jane Hunt, March 2012.



**The Friends of the Ferguson Forest Centre would like to thank our Corporate Members for their support**

<b>T.D.Graham &amp; Associates</b> Kemptville ON	<b>EcoGen Energy Inc</b> Kemptville ON	<b>Grenville Land Stewardship Council</b> Brockville ON
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## Friends of FFC - Membership

We are a non-profit, volunteer, community-based organization, dedicated to:

- supporting the Ferguson Forest Centre by raising awareness of its value as an educational and recreational resource within the community.
- maintaining access to a natural area with shared trails for nature walks, running, dog walking, horse riding, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and other non-motorized activities.
- promoting good forestry stewardship to help preserve this exceptional setting for future generations.
- promoting the creation of the North Grenville arboretum
- being a strong, unified community voice that contributes to the on-going development of mixed-use non-motorized enjoyment of this natural forest setting

The Ferguson Forest Centre manages over 300 hectares of forested Crown land, with several kilometres of well-maintained, multi-purpose trails. Yours to enjoy! The main trail is wheelchair accessible.

This mature forested area is home to an abundant variety of wildlife, including rabbits, deer, porcupines, foxes, squirrels, skunks, snakes, frogs, many species of birds, and much more!

**Help your community and yourself by becoming an active member of the Friends of the Ferguson Forest Centre.**

Members receive newsletters, timely information on upcoming events, and educational notes to promote walks in the forest, or assist with community events.

Members have voting rights at general meetings and the opportunity to join the Board of Directors and help in setting and achieving our goals.

## How to become a Friends member

Annual membership is \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family. Corporate memberships are also welcomed. Membership applications are available on our website, at [www.friendsofthefergusonforest.ca](http://www.friendsofthefergusonforest.ca)

Or can be picked up and dropped off (or mailed to):  
Friends of the Ferguson Forest Centre c/o FFC  
(office located next to the Municipal Centre)  
275 County Road 44, RR#4  
Kemptville ON K0G 1J0

Cheques should be made out to:  
Friends of the Ferguson Forest Centre,  
and included with your completed membership form.

If you have knowledge to share about ecology or outdoor activities, the Friends would love to hear from you!  
Please send us an email at:  
[executives@friendsofthefergusonforest.ca](mailto:executives@friendsofthefergusonforest.ca)

## Some OTHER NEWS in Kemptville:

**Dandelion Festival - May 26, 27, 28th**,  
at Kemptville Riverside Park - something for everyone.  
[www.thedandelionfestival.com](http://www.thedandelionfestival.com)

**NG Book Fair - October 12, 13th**, Thousands of books to select from, at Kemptville Ferguson Forest Centre. **The Forestry Centre is home to the annual Book Fair**, in collaboration with the Friends of the North Grenville Public Library, and Community Living North Grenville.

**The Giving Garden** is on land owned by the Municipality of North Grenville and is located on the northeast corner of County Road 43 and Grenville Street in Kemptville.

Several years ago, long-time North Grenville resident Terry McEvoy conceived the idea of a Giving Garden-- taking vacant municipal land next to the Ferguson Forest Centre and turning it into a productive community garden run by volunteers. The purpose of the garden would be to make the harvest available to those in need.

In 2007 the Anniversary Committee selected the Garden as one of its five legacy projects. The Committee organized working days and prepared four plots, planting them with vegetables and flowers. Today, volunteers from every corner of the Municipality have stepped forward to plant, water, weed, and nurture the Giving Garden into existence.

Terry's explanation for the Giving Garden was simple, "I have been given so much; I just wanted to give something back." Sadly, Terry passed away suddenly in the spring of 2009, but his vision lives on. After Terry's passing, a Giving Garden Committee was formed with Don Munz as Chair. Tom Graham produced marketing material along with signage.

Submitted by Mary Lou and Don Munz

## Prevent Poo-lution

(adapted from the EMC, April 5, 2012)

What effect do dogs have on the environment?  
Dogs are meat eaters; their waste is four times more harmful than human waste. Full of nitrogen and E. coli bacteria, their waste can kill plants, damage grass, and make us sick.

Scoop the poop is practiced by conscientious dog owners, especially while walking in Ferguson Forest.

Please do not leave your poop bags behind; the FFC does not have the resources to pick up those plastic bags left by the wayside.

Please cooperate!! Our wonderful pristine forest deserves better.

## Hikers and dogwalkers take care:

- Lyme disease is here in North Grenville and with the warm weather, ticks are already active.
- Mosquito season brings increased threat of heartworm in dogs

For more information relating to dogs, especially on prevention, see our website.

While not covered here, note that human beings, too, can contract the disease and if they do, it can be very harmful.

## Lyme Disease

The following are excerpts from an article - Courtesy of Dr. Lynn Lambourne of the Grenville-Dundas Veterinary Clinic, Kemptville, Ontario

This article is intended to inform you of the serious health risk from Lyme disease, and precautions you can take to protect your dog.

Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium and is spread to animals and people by the white-tailed deer tick. Infected ticks were first identified in the United States over 30 years ago and have slowly crept north to our area, including Ottawa. Since 2010 over 200 dogs have tested positive for the Lyme infection in Eastern Ontario.

The Ixodes ticks are being transported by many species of animals including deer, raccoons, foxes, chipmunks and other rodents but especially by migratory birds. The adult ticks fall off these host animals into the environment. The ticks then climb up vegetation such as blades of grass and brush and attach themselves to dogs as they walk by or sniff the ground. Dogs become infected with the *Borrelia* organism 24-48 hours after the female tick bites them. Clinical disease may develop in the dog 2-6 months later.

### **Clinical signs**

Lyme disease appears to be more common in dogs and rare in cats, horses, goats and cattle. Not all infected dogs will show signs of illness, however those that do most commonly suffer from acute arthritis characterized by hot, swollen and painful joints. In many cases fever, loss of appetite and lethargy will accompany the lameness.

### **Diagnosis and treatment**

Prompt diagnosis and treatment is essential in preventing degeneration of joints and permanent damage to soft tissues such as the heart and nervous system. The disease is diagnosed by clinical signs, history of exposure to ticks, and by blood tests to detect antibodies to the *Borrelia* organism. Aggressive treatment with antibiotics is imperative to a dog's recovery from the disease.

Not all dogs with the infection will develop signs of disease, however those that do need to be treated promptly.

### **Prevention**

Preventing infection is the key to maintaining your pet's [and your] optimum health. Brushing your dog after each walk and removing any ticks you find is a good measure.

It is recommended that all dog owners take a pro-active approach to Lyme disease prevention by having their pet vaccinated every year and by using a tick control product from the beginning of April until the end of November when temperatures are above 4 degrees Celsius. It is also important to have a blood test done every Spring to check for tick transmissible infections and Heartworm.

Dog owners are encouraged to contact their veterinarian to get more information.

**The next issue of this Newsletter** is planned for September (Fall & Winter) to coincide with our annual membership renewal mailout. If you have suggestions for content, contact us at: <mailto:memberships@friendsofthefergusonforest.ca>

Some of Jane's ideas for future Newsletter articles:  
Wildlife, or Birds in the FFC  
Willow Biofuel Project, FFC  
Horses in the FFC



Ferguson Forest

- Photo by Maggie Boyer



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