

Annual Newsletter

Wood Islands and Area Development Corp.

After more than ten years of operation the corporation has many things to be thankful for. Everyone, from the original people with ideas who started the organization to the many that have taken it to its current position of stability, has contributed greatly to the success of the Plough the Waves Centre, its events and the Lighthouse.

To recap the history and provide guidance for the future we need your continued support. The corporation's most visible and major contributions to the area include the successful building of the Plough the Waves Centre, the rail trail project and the Lighthouse. There are many other benefits to having these facilities and the events that contribute to us as a community, such as the 70 Mile Yard Sale, dinners, spring break kids camp, hosting seniors art school this past fall, slide shows, and the list goes on. These events encourage our community members to get together for a chat in the fall, at a friend's house during the yard sale, at a dinner where you sit with your neighbor, or at an afternoon skate on a pond. This is what community is all about, and we need to continue with these activities.

In the summer of 2009 the Sea Glass Festival will have its inaugural event and will be as successful and innovative an idea as the yard sale was ten years ago. It is sure to be a big draw to our community over the next several years and more. The lighthouse is going to be moved to higher ground to ensure its continued success. The Yard Sale and the Ferry Festival are both in the planning stages for another year.

Members of our community benefit directly by the presence of this organization, in ways that include summer employment, snow removal, flowers, repairs, and the businesses that are positively impacted by the presence of the events, by making them more sustainable and increasing local employment. How many of you have high speed internet now, or a discounted fuel program. We have the privilege of two high speed service providers in our area that were initiated by the development corporation's action and the coordinated push of local residents.

We look to the future with many ideas and from a strong sense of place. It is critical for you to maintain your support emotionally, physically and by your continued participation in our events, committees and on the board in order for this to continue.

We have some ideas for future community-building activities, and we would like your comments on which of those you would expect to be most beneficial. As always, we are hoping to obtain new ideas and would welcome any of those that you might have. The attached survey is intended to help us prioritize our projects and ideas as we strive to focus the available resources on the work the community is most interested in. Your time and cooperation in answering the questions and in returning the survey will be most appreciated.

Please return your survey to The Store, to any board member, fax to 962-3764, mail to WIADC, PO Box 6, Belle River RR#1 C0A 1B0, e-mail to woodislands.ca

Ideas we are working on

Our motto is History, Heritage and the old fashioned way; this has created the theme for the lighthouse and the Plough the Waves Centre, and we wish to continue in this vein.

History committee: could be a weekly get-together for the winter to share photos, clippings, stories, etc., and compile them into a display format.

Wind Power: could a wind turbine benefit our community and generate income?

International Mind Games: a festival of debate, spelling bee, chess, Scrabble, and Sudoku.

Traveling Juried Art Show: artists set up for the day and then bring their work for judging.

Farm Aid Concert & Celebrity Golf Tournament: Concert in the community, in a field.

Sporting events/competitions: such as iron man competition and strong man competitions.

Treasure Hunt: where a valuable prize is hidden and clues are sold.

Community Garden: would people use a tilled space to grow their own vegetables?

Communications: we need to better inform our community of what the Dev. Corp. is doing. What about a changeable sign at Plough the Waves site? Community bulletin board located at the sign center? Telephone tree where those who are willing would call those they know and keep them in the loop? Enhanced website? Electronic notification list? Electronic newsletter.

Community Activities: children's/seniors' activities, community school, one-session events.

Lighthouse Park: have the kids' play center rebuilt/ re-brand to Wood Islands Light House Park.

Rail Trail Extension; Work on extending the Rail Trail down to the ferry and the lighthouse.

Best use of our resources; improve visibility of the lighthouse project at the Plough the Waves Centre.

Welcome new residents: Identify newcomers, and welcome them as a community.

Public Transportation: facilitate car-pooling or offer an introductory transportation service?

Group Purchases: obtain group discounts on home heating oil, insurance. Or purchase equipment such as a firewood processor that would be made available to members of our community for their annual wood production on a fee basis. Members could be made available for hire as well.

Groundcover: do our own experimentation with ground cover in an effort to reduce mowing.

Duck/Skating Pond: enhance duck pond at Kenny's Trail, keep it up for winter recreation.

We are looking for ideas and feedback here..... Our annual meeting is March 25, 7 **YOU NEED TO BE THERE**, And **YOU NEED TO FILL OUT THE SURVEY NOW by circling your answer and filling the blanks**

