



Port Maitland, “On the Grand” Historical Association
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Established, 2005 - Charitable Status, 2006 - Charitable Number, **81505 4143 RR0001**

Winners of the 2008, Grand River Conservation Authority; Watershed Award

Nominated for Haldimand County’s “Community Cultural Award” 2014

We are a non- discriminating organization!

Saturday August 1, 2015

Good cleanup – Really good Volunteers!

On Saturday August the 1st a very successful cleanup of the Port Maitland Lock and the new site of the Cairn in Port Maitland Park East were completed.

In the weeks before a call went out to newspaper in the County and via email contacts, with remarkable responses.



Mike Loudon, with his Bobcat. Bill nattering at him as Mike while Mike’s wife Sherry is doing all the work!

Mike Loudon volunteered his Bob Cat, also a sturdy weed whacker and of course his time. With the arrival of the Bobcat my plans changed considerably. There were needs that required such a machine and I did not know where I was going to find someone to donate the machine let alone their talent to operate it. A number of large armour stones improperly place at the lock were move and are in safe storage until we need them. Debris from the weed whacking the many volunteers cut was

easily moved and stacked for disposal. Most of all Mike did some landscaping at the cairn which now makes it possible for a riding lawn mower to cut grass that soon will grow there. Mike also saved me getting a cardiogram as he manoeuvred the Bobcat in the lock. I was convinced it was going into the drink. I made a fool of myself hanging on to the side of the machine like a mouse riding an elephant thinking he could control the monster. I guess in my moment of *my heart beating a thousand pumps a minute* I thought I could save Mike and his machine. All I did was prove my ticker could take all that excitement and survive. Sorry Doc, no cardiogram needed this week!

John Graham, who has been an important volunteer from day one at the lock did as John always does. He knew what needed to be done and used his extensive talent to direct a number of jobs. John does much more than direct. He get into the work with both hands and gets things done.



being re-installed. I must say, it finishes off the place and makes the lock more inviting.

Bill Strong weed whacked for the first few hours and then with the help of Bob Campbell and John Graham returned the information signs to the kiosk which has been absent of them for three summers. We failed to get any photos of the sign

Bob Campbell started his day and cut all the grass before doing other jobs, as well as restoring the sign as already mentioned.



Bob Campbell likes Otto Bulk's donated lawn tractor!

We had three young volunteers who were putting in their high school community hours. They were Jacob & Shaun Jager and Nathan & Andrew Nordeman. These four fellows didn't just show up; they all weed whacked raked, swept and gathered debris. ?? was sent to the new cairn where he did a yeoman's job of weed whacking some very difficult brush.



?? rakes at the lock



?? put his weed whacker to work around on of the three benches!

Sylvia Weaver trimmed trees at the cairn and supervised work at that location along with Janet deVos who as always came prepared to work. Unfortunately my photographer failed to get a shot

of Sylvia and Janet. She also forgot to get someone to take a photo of her!

We also failed to get a photo of Russ Downie. using a donated post hole auger and cement mixer from Pete's Engine & Rental Centre (Thanks Rainer Gueckenstedt) Russ dug four holes for the stands for Kisby or Kisbie rings donated by Capt Jim Siddall. *Every so often I love to put a word in that is not widely used. If you want to know what a kisby/kisbie ring is, ask me! Hint (Captain Siddall).* The holes dug; he placed sonotubes into in and filed the holes with concrete and the kisby stands. We now have kisbie in case of someone falls into the lock. It was suggested we should place a sign at the lock that reads "if you fall in, Just Stand Up" as it is at best a foot or so deep! Russ worked until approximately 4:30.



There was one volunteer who went at the weeds with his weed whacker like a house on fire. No, I don't know his name. I introduced myself and ask his name. I think his reply was "Just a volunteer". Never the less, there was no way of getting his name from him. He only wanted to volunteer and not be recognized.

My fabulous granddaughter Cierrah, held down administration, getting volunteers to make out their lunch menu, getting names and address of new volunteers (accept my mystery volunteer), taking photos and just generally being the nice young lady she has become. With my sister Margo Calvert help they took the menus to Susan Walker at Hippos in Lowbanks and retrieved lunch. Back at the cairn under some shady trees trimmed by Sylvia, we sat and shared lunch and a pleasant conversations.

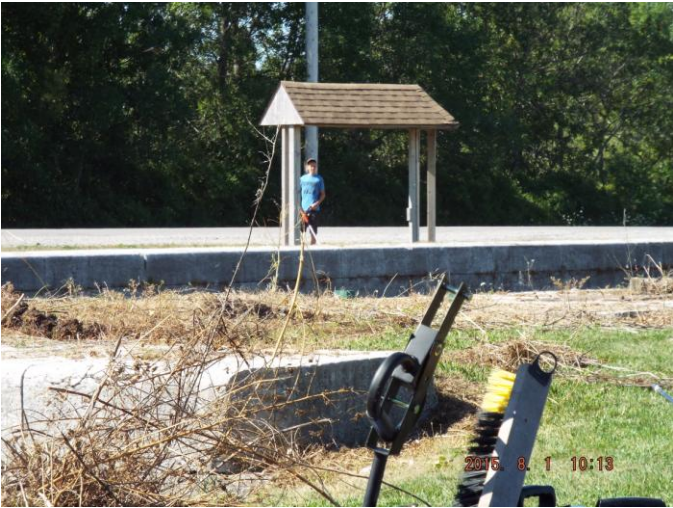
After lunch all returned to the lock to complete the job there. Jim Pond taught me a neat trick to unload a full trailer of brush. Before placing any brush into

the trailer he takes a rope and stretches it down the middle with enough rope hanging over the front to later be pulled back over the load. When it is time to dump the trailer both ends of the rope are brought together like into a rope and the load is pulled off. In our case the load was more than we old-fellows could handle, so we tied the rope to a pole and Jim drove the trailer forward. There was not more than a handful of debris left in the trailer! Jim and I installed a very difficult bench; so difficult that we need to purchase two new ends as we encountered broken bolts, both in the wood seat and in the ends themselves.

This is my way of saying thanks a tonne for all your help. No, you are not getting a thank you card. This is it!

Now for some more photos:





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