

2010 Annual report from the Roadside Trails Committee

Looking back in the annual report for 2001, in the infancy of the Roadside Trail Committee (a.k.a. the Motorless Traffic Trails Committee), the Committee was set up "...for the development of a network of trails connecting the main centres of activity on the Island." The report goes on "The project is intended to improve safety and to encourage greater participation in walking and bicycling thereby reducing reliance on cars when moving around the island." These objectives are still the guiding principals for the Committee.

This year, there has almost been more intellectual activity indoors than physical exertion out on the trails. We had several requests for information and advice on how to develop a roadside trails system. We sent an information package to the "Pathways" group on Saltspring Island, to Cortes Island (relating to the review of their OCP) and to the Gulf Island Alliance's Fall Gathering on Saltspring Island. We expect that the information package that we prepared will form the basis for a trail page on the hirra.ca site.

The Roadside Trails Committee, and its chair, were the recipients of an Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award relating to environmental protection, in this case, by facilitating the use of non-polluting forms of transportation and so reducing green house gas production.

We undertook preliminary planning and community consultation relating to a possible new trail project.

We purchased a load of road crush for improving the surface condition of the trail between the Health Building and the Library and also the Central Road trail east of the Hall.

Construction and maintenance included: upkeep of signage, working with a trail neighbour to address the problem of speeding cyclists at a driveway intersection, brush cutting, and application of grass seed as part of an erosion control measure.

There were no fundraising activities this year. Expenditures included: the insurance premium, the HIRRA levy and the purchase of the gravel.

Your trails committee in 2009 was: Andrew Carmichael (Chair), Dan Johnson, Charles Western, Jeremy Payne and Maureen Tierney