

◊ Cascade Chronicle ◊

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Mayor Plusquellic joins Russ Musarra, Chuck Ayers, Congressman Regula and Al Simpson at the book signing. Photo: John Ashley and The University of Akron

Along the Towpath

On the 24th of November, a book signing was held at the Mustill Store, for The University of Akron University Libraries publication: Along the Towpath: A Journalist Rediscovered the Ohio

& Erie Canal. The book is a collection of articles written by Al Simpson, which appeared in the Canton Repository between 1964 and 1970. The series entitled "Along the Towpath", served to generate interest in the restoration of the Ohio & Erie Canal. The author, Al Simpson, editor, Russ Musarra, and illustrator, Chuck Ayers, along with Congressman Ralph Regula, were all on hand to autograph the book.

Congressman Regula and his wife spoke of his affection for the Towpath Trail and the development of this asset for everyone to enjoy. He explained that the articles written by Simpson in the Canton Repository began when he went to the Repository office to find someone who could walk the trails with him.

Al Simpson spoke of his enjoyment in investigating the trails and writing the articles. He also credited Mr. Regula with moving the project forward and getting the money to fund the Canal Towpath's restoration. Al added, "everyone enjoys it, bikers, hikers, children, old folks, dogwalkers. This benefits everyone."

By the way, if you haven't seen the book yet, I suggest that you pick one up. It is available in hardback (\$30) and paperback (\$20) at the Mustill Store and would make a great Holiday gift!

Joy Ramos

Blimp Ride Raffle is a Big Hit

Thanks to the generous donation by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co, we raised over \$1500! The grand prize of a ride for 2 aboard the Goodyear Blimp went to Jackie McCamon. Jackie and her sister Kathleen Kearns were happy to give this gift to their mother, Joann Talkington on her birthday, 2 days after the drawing! Joann is a long time supporter of CLPA.

Roadrunner Akron Marathon

October 11, 2003 was the date of the inaugural Akron Marathon and it turned out to be a perfect day for running. All of the planning and hard work that the marathon committee put into the event made it the world class marathon they had hoped it would be. The marathon route was planned carefully so that it would pass by some of Akron's best landmarks and we were delighted that the Mustill Store was one of these. Invitations were sent to members and friends of CLPA inviting them to come watch the race and cheer on their favorite runners



Marathoners hit the Towpath Trail.



The Brick Road Ramblers play for the runners.

from the store and a good time was had by all who came. Muffins and cookies were donated by Main Street Gourmet and there was plenty of coffee to go around. Mark October 2 on your 2004 calendar,

and plan to join us for the 2nd annual Roadrunner Akron Marathon.

We will save a good seat for you!

Susan Kinnamon

Please Join the CLPA Today!

Cascade Locks Park Association is beginning a new phase of development to complete our mission to preserve, protect and promote the industrial, commercial and cultural heritage of the Cascade Locks Park along locks 10-16 of the Ohio & Erie Canal, part of Akron's CanalWay Center. CLPA continues to provide education and interpretation of canal life in the 1850's for school children and our community. **Your membership pays for the support necessary to carry out all of these projects.** Please consider making a year-end contribution. Your gift to CLPA is tax deductible.

Deck the Store



CLPA Board members got into the holiday spirit on the evening of November 4th. Following our monthly board meeting, we unpacked the Christmas tree and the holiday decorations and had a Christmas decorating party. It

was fun and festive and we hope you will stop by to see the fruits of our labor. We have tried to use decorations that are fairly "period correct". We would want the Mustills to approve! We hope our towpath hikers and bikers will stop in and enjoy the holiday atmosphere. Merry Christmas to all!

Susan Kinnamon

CLPA Volunteer Program

Americans are wonderful volunteers. Nowhere in the world do people devote more hours to volunteerism than they do in the United States. What better place is there to volunteer than at our own Cascade Locks Park Association, where we are dedicated to the development of the Cascade Locks Historic District, preserving the history of the Ohio & Erie Canal, interpreting our industrial heritage, and enlivening the rich African American and jazz history of Howard Street.

CLPA's education and volunteer committees have combined to work on the goals to fulfill the mission to encourage and promote community involvement and support the development of the park, and to instill a sense of pride and ownership among the residents of our community. We intend to educate, recruit, train and expand through your help. There are many opportunities to get involved from tending the store, to gardening, archival work, guiding educational groups, special events, committee or board work, and so on.

Volunteers are vital to the success of every nonprofit organization in many ways. The obvious way is through all the great deeds they accomplish. Perhaps not as obvious is when we are careful to document volunteer hours. This in-kind service is important in grant applications illustrating the dedication of the community to the organization.

We will make it easy and painless for you to get involved. Email clpaoffice@ameritech.net or call our office at 330-374-5625, and ask for a volunteer application. A committee member will call you and invite you to the store to discuss volunteer opportunities. You will decide what position is comfortable for you. Whether you can devote a short time or a long time, periodic or frequent involvement, we will appreciate what you are able to do. Give us a call!
Rosemary Reymann

Making the Big Connection: A Towpath Trail Update

The much anticipated towpath connection to Akron's Central Business District will be realized in 2004! Under the leadership of Mike Teodecki in the City's Engineering Department and the consultant, Environmental Design Group, we have been meeting monthly to plan for the towpath trail extension through the Cascade Locks Park! As with everything we do, this is an intense partnership effort involving the City of Akron (heading up the project), Cascade Locks Park Association, Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, the National Park Service, Ohio Edison and the Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor Coalition. Together, we are finalizing the plans and developing the interpretive panels and interpretive elements that will be part of the construction. This first phase of the trail will extend from Lock 14 to the Akron Innerbelt at the Beech Street Power Plant site with a pedestrian walkway connection down Main Street to Lock 3. The pedestrian connector offers unique opportunities to interpret Akron's urban history and the linkage of the Pennsylvania & Ohio Canal with the Ohio & Erie Canal. The P & O Canal followed the current alignment of Main Street between 1840 and 1884 and connected with the O & E Canal at the Lower Basin, below Exchange Street. This important first phase has been made possible by a \$500,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, a \$500,000 grant from the Clean Ohio Trails Fund and \$1,250,000 from the City of Akron. Construction begins this Spring, 2004!

The second phase of the project will ultimately provide the ADA and bike connection and is estimated at \$3,000,000. The City of Akron recently was awarded \$380,000 from the Clean Ohio Trails Fund and is in the process of obtaining full funding for the project! We applaud the City for its commitment to see this project through!! The trail alignment will follow the Innerbelt to the west ... traverse the Innerbelt... enter the Central Business District and descend to Lock 2. The Lock 2 to Lock 3 towpath trail is complete, making the full connection between the Main Street Pedestrian Connector terminating at Lock 3 and the ADA towpath trail. Completion of Phase 2 is scheduled for fall of 2005!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Wednesday, March 24 7pm Explore Akron's Canal Era Sites

Come hear a presentation about canal era structures from the Mustill Store to Summit Lake. Join CLPA volunteers Denny Reiser and Rosemary Reymann to explore the future possibilities of these historic sites. Meet at the Mustill Store.

The Mustill Store closes for the winter on December 14th. We reopen in March, weather permitting!

Neighborhood Developments

On September 29, 2003, Mayor Plusquellic announced an ambitious new housing strategy to promote new housing construction and housing rehabilitation in the City of Akron. One of the first areas of the City to receive attention will be the Hickory Street Corridor and the Cascade Locks area. Over the past year, the City's Department of Planning and Urban Development has held a series of meetings with area residents, property owners, business owners and area stakeholders, specifically the Cascade Locks Park Association, to formulate development recommendations for this area. An Urban Renewal Plan is being prepared that will give the City the authorization to acquire parcels within this area to assemble lots to develop new housing, rehabilitate existing housing and improve the public infrastructure. The plan will include development recommendations for the Hickory Corridor and Cascade Locks Area. It is anticipated that this plan will be presented to Akron City Council in early 2004.

The Hickory Corridor / Cascade Locks housing initiative is only one of many exciting developments that will directly impact the future of the near north side of downtown, Cascade Locks Park and surrounding areas. The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority will begin construction of the new Hope VI project for the Elizabeth Park Area in 2004. This \$50 million project will result in the construction of 273 new housing units in the Elizabeth Park Valley. Construction of the newest section of the Towpath Trail, from the Mustill Store south alongside the Cascade Locks into downtown, will also begin in 2004.

The City also looks forward to the new master plan for the Cascade Locks Park, which is being prepared by the Cascade Locks Park Association with the participation of the City and area stakeholders. It is anticipated that this plan will include recommendations for new housing along North Howard Street and Canal Street in the Cascade Locks Park. All parties anticipate the development of new office or retail opportunities along North Howard Street and North Street to complement new housing in the area.

Kurt Mulhauser
Akron Department of Planning & Urban Development

From the Planning Committee

By the time this newsletter goes to press, the Planning Committee may have selected the consultant to create a master plan for our Cascade "Node". We shall choose between Environmental Design Group (EDG) of Akron or Behnke Associates, Inc from Cleveland. Both have worked on the corridor and carry excellent credentials. In the outside chance that neither firm meets our qualifications, we shall open the competition again. We want only the finest plan our money can buy, one which creatively connects Cascade Locks Park with Elizabeth Park, the train station, Hickory Street's plans as well as innovative usage for the mill site and Aggie Russell's house.

The Howard Street Corridor Committee focuses its efforts strictly along Howard Street. Aggie Russell's house is the "foot in the door" and will provide the jazz theme for the neighborhood. Our committee has been joined by Janet Purnell, a valuable asset. We are looking primarily at the diverse ethnic neighborhood Howard Street once highlighted. Primarily we are going to accent the contribution of African American's who owned so many businesses, clubs and attractions. However, my father-in-law operated a grocery store at the foot of Howard Street for years, catering to Polish, Italian and African American clientele. Another exciting possibility is partnering with the National Park once again. Six persons from the park (to include Jim Crowe who was the head of our Mustill workforce) assessed the roof on Aggie's house and made recommendations for repair.

Virginia B. Wojno-Forney



Single Volunteers of the Western Reserve and CLPA Volunteers take the first step in the rehabilitation of another contributing structure to the Cascade Locks Historic District! (Aggie Russell's House)

On November 15th, the group cleaned out the bottom floor of the house. The Single Volunteers have volunteered to tackle the main floor on December 13th! We are so thankful to have their help!

Heyday Howard Street

Aggie Russell and Carolyn Reed, two CLPA supporters who passed on this year, were honored on September 12 at the "Heyday Howard Street" Party hosted by Virginia (Wojno) and Dick Forney, and Malcolm and Crystal Costa. Carolyn's husband Jim and daughter Dana accepted a plaque honoring Carolyn's vision to remember and preserve the importance of "Life on Historic Howard Street". Aggie's sister, Helen Clarke came from New York to accept a plaque for Aggie's participation in preserving Cascade Locks Park. Those who attended this event at the Women's City Club heard about our exciting plans and ideas for interpreting and enlivening Howard Street.

Thank you for your support!

The functions and programs provided by CLPA are made possible by the support of our donors.

We are grateful for this support!

Our donors since the September 2003 newsletter include:

Grants

The Charles E. & Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation

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Special Donations

To celebrate Susan Kinnamon's Birthday!
From: Sara, Lori, Tim and Oliver
In memory of Earle Arnold by Ezio and Patricia Basile

In Kind donations were generously provided by:
Steve Lederer (Gateway Computer!)
Main Street Gourmet (cookies and rolls for the marathon spectators)

And a special thank you to Steve Lederer and Nate Keil for all their time and help with computer needs!

Message from the President



Change indicates growth and growth indicates change. So it was at our last monthly Board of Trustees meeting. President Bruce Smith asked to be relieved of his responsibilities because of career and family challenges. Virginia Wojno-Forney agreed to return to duty as Chairman of the Board and yours truly agreed to serve out the remaining term as President as well as continue as Treasurer. Another, and hopefully younger, President will be elected in July.

Our ambitious Planning Committee has many irons in the fire including an alliance with the The Shirla R. McClain Gallery of Akron's Black History and Culture, which currently has an exhibit on the history of Howard Street, and the selection of a firm to proceed with the development plans for the park property south of North Street. Recent archaeology digs by the University of Akron have revealed the location of portions of Schumacher's Cascade Mill. Nancy Anderson-Keil has joined our staff as part time Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator to help Bridget with membership, fundraising and volunteer development. Our budget outlook is OK at the midpoint of the fiscal year but we are depending on some outstanding grants and membership support to successfully complete the year.

To those of you who have contributed to our growth, THANK YOU. To those of you who are reading this and are not involved, consider joining us as we continue building this wonderful park.

Bob Freitag, President/Treasurer

From the Executive Director

Enthusiastic hikers and bikers who normally keep our Towpath energized are waning as the winter months set in and we all get busy with the Holiday Season. Activity within the organization is only increasing, however.

We are embarking on an exciting year for the Cascade Locks Park and our neighborhood. Here is what you have to look forward to in 2004:

- ◇ An updated and more detailed Cascade Locks Park Master Plan
- ◇ Completion of the towpath trail through the Cascade Locks Park and into Akron's Central Business District via a pedestrian connector on Main Street
- ◇ The beginning of the major redevelopment of Elizabeth Park
- ◇ The development and initiation of an Urban Renewal Plan for the Hickory Corridor, and
- ◇ The continuation of all of our programs and projects at the Mustill Store and the Cascade Locks Park.

Here's to great changes and advances in 2004!

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Bridget Garvin
 Executive Director

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SPOTLIGHT ON...AL BRION!!

Some people are so wonderful quietly going about their work – important work that really makes a difference – but never trying to focus attention on themselves. Al Brion is certainly one of those people.

“Old Al,” as he calls himself, has been a member of the CLPA Board since 1999. He had learned about Cascade Locks Park and the plans to save the Mustill Store and House when he visited the site after purchasing a cassette of music performed by The Mustill Muskrats at the 1997 Akron/Canton Home & Garden Show. Al had always been interested in history and preservation, so like so many of us, he became a passionate supporter of the initiative to save and develop the park with its Mustill centerpieces.

Al was born and raised in Williamsport, PA – an only child. He came to Akron in 1954 after a Goodyear recruiter visited the Army Base where he was stationed and enticed him with employment. Al became a member of Goodyear’s C-Squad – a production supervision training program that provided a strong backbone for Goodyear’s product manufacturing through the years. Before completing the program, however, Al joined the Engineering Squad. He spent the remainder of his career with Goodyear serving in various capacities with Research & Development and retired from Goodyear in 1991.

Al makes his home in Ellet, but we are grateful that the Mustill Store has become his home away from home. Al is a mentor for new volunteers at the Store and delights in sharing the history of the Mustill family and evolution of early Akron. In addition to working on the Archives Committee and volunteering in the store, Al is always a willing hand and energetic participant in planning and executing Cascade Locks fundraisers. Whether it is buying peanuts, directing traffic, conducting store visits, or decorating for the holidays, Al makes it happen. Al is an original; he’s authentic. We call him “Reliable Al”!



STAFF ADDITION AT CLPA

We are pleased to announce that Nancy Anderson-Keil has joined the CLPA staff. According to Bridget Garvin, Executive Director, “Nancy’s primary focus will be coordination of the volunteer program and membership development and management. She possesses a wide range of skills and capabilities and we are thrilled to have her on the CLPA team.”

Nancy and her husband, Nate, relocated to the Akron area from Pennsylvania for his job with Smither’s-Oasis. They moved into a Century Home in Green and are discovering the wonderful attributes of Northeastern Ohio. Nancy has a Masters in Geography from Temple University and a Bachelors in Environmental Design from the Evergreen State College in Olympia Washington.

Nancy stopped in the Mustill Store one day and mentioned that she is a professional cartographer (a mapmaker) -- a comment that was the beginning of her relationship with CLPA. She has already utilized some of her skills assisting with the University of Akron’s Cascade Mill project and working on an update of the existing Cascade Locks Park Master Plan into a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) format. One of her products depicts our relationship with neighborhood projects as well as the proposed visitor center at Lock One. Check out www.gismapdesign.com to view her work. She continues to provide consultant services in this field while she works part time for us!

If you have not yet met Nancy, please take time to say “hello”. She will be in our offices Wednesday thru Friday.

Cascade Locks Park Association
248 Ferndale Street
Akron, Ohio 44304

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Join the Cascade Locks Park Association Today!

Membership Benefits include:

- A subscription to the Cascade Chronicle
- Notice of public meetings and events
- Easy access to educational programs
- Invitations to "Members Only" events

.....And the knowledge you are supporting the goals of the
Cascade Locks Park Association

Just fill out the form and mail it with your check, made out to the
"CLPA", to: CLPA, 248 Ferndale Street, Akron, Ohio 44304

Yes! I want to join the CLPA at the following level:

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I would like to serve on a CLPA committee _____

I would like to volunteer to work at the Mustill Store _____