

## Advocacy Committee Newsletter November 2011

The Whitewater Ontario Advocacy Committee (established Jan 2011) has been incredibly busy over the past year. Here is an update on our activities, our plans for next year and ways you can help (see ➔ below).

Thanks to the current members of the Advocacy committee for their ideas, involvement and commitment. We have an exciting year ahead and need volunteers!

### **2011 Activities**

- **River Access Investigations:** We trying to engage local river advocates to take on individual access issues. Issues have been raised regarding the Salmon near Tamworth, Moore Creek, Crowe River Fish Hatchery and the Ottawa Lorne Access. Committee representatives have visited landowners and access points to try to negotiate access. When access is denied, other alternatives have been sought and communicated to the paddling community via the website and the River Wiki.

➔If you would like to get involved as a WO River Advocate or have a specific access issue you would like addressed please get in touch by emailing [laura.jane.duncan@gmail.com](mailto:laura.jane.duncan@gmail.com)

- **River Signage:** Where access negotiations have occurred signage has been developed and approved for next season. Where alternative access is to be used signage will indicate this. Signage will be installed at Crowe Bridge, the Salmon put in and takeout, Crowe Fish Hatchery parking lot and takeout and the Black in Queensborough.
- **Other Campaign Involvement:** We have made contact with various other campaigns and offered support and attended meetings to represent WO members. Campaigns include Save Bala Falls, Cambridge whitewater park, Ontario Rivers Alliance (We have a WO Advocacy committee member attending ORA meetings) and Galeairy Lake Dam.
- **Petawawa and Xeneca:** We have provided support to the Save the Petawawa campaign in the form of letters, a member survey on WO position, open house and teleconference attendance and in the form of financial contributions. WO also gratefully received a \$2300 donation from Hell or High Water for Advocacy issues.
- **Ontario Rivers Alliance Donation:** The 2011 Hell or High Water donation of \$2300 was redirected to ORA to help them get established and to support their important river advocacy work.
- **River Wiki:** A River Wiki was created and content has been created and updated and contributions have been sought from clubs and individuals across Ontario. The committee is seeking formal partnership with Environment Canada to put river level and gauge information on the Wiki.

➔If you have any river information you would like to have posted on the River Wiki, please submit it to [laura.jane.duncan@gmail.com](mailto:laura.jane.duncan@gmail.com)

- **Membership fee commitment:** The WO board approved a proposal that \$5 from each WO membership be set aside for Advocacy issues.

### **2012 Activities**

- **Mountain Equipment Coop grant:** We have received a MEC grant to help us cover costs associated with signage, promotion and seed money for an Advocacy fundraising event
- **River Advocacy Festival:** We would like to organise an advocacy event on the Ottawa over the July long weekend 2012. The event would include speakers on river advocacy from across North America as well as fundraising for river advocacy and engaging paddlers in advocacy activities.

➔If you would like to be involved in planning this event please email [laura.jane.duncan@gmail.com](mailto:laura.jane.duncan@gmail.com)

- **River Advocacy across Canada:** We would like to create a network of river advocacy contacts across Canada to increase communication and support for river access issues.