

CANAL SOCIETY of Indiana



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January 11, 2004

Mr. Mick Wilz
PO Box 126
Brookville, IN 47012

Dear Mick:

The Canal Society of Indiana was formed in 1982 to bring together those who share a common interest in Indiana's historic canals. CSI's goals include interpretation of the era, preserving canal bed and structural remains and to provide support to others who share our common goals. Our membership is over 350 persons nationwide.

In the past CSI has supported efforts in the Whitewater Valley to preserve canal era history. We have contributed financially to Western Wayne Heritage in their efforts to restore the Vinton House in Cambridge City. The Vinton House sits right beside the WW Canal basin and played an active role during the canal era as an inn for canal and National Road travelers. We have also provided funding for signage at lock sites along the right-of-way of the Whitewater Valley Railroad from Connersville to Metamora.

CSI supports your effort to develop a canal towpath trail from the Laurel Feeder Dam to Brookville in Franklin County. This would be a great addition to your historic communities. It would provide recreational and tourism for the county as well as focus attention to the neglected canal remains. The best way to preserve is to provide a recreational or economic use of a resource. Certainly your trail concept would focus attention to the canal while providing a hiking, jogging trail. The trail is especially needed now as the State's current plan of watering the canal with wells near Metamora will greatly reduce the water flow in the canal from the Laurel feeder dam to Metamora. The trail will help to address attention on this portion of the canal and hopefully prevent obliteration.

Keep us apprized of your progress so that we can keep our membership informed in The Hoosier Packet.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert F. Schmidt".

Robert F. Schmidt
President - Canal Society of Indiana