



From the Chair

J Raymond Soucy

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be held on Sunday May 15th starting at 2PM at the Elora Centre for the Arts. This year will be especially interesting and I encourage all of you to come out. We have been presented with an opportunity to work with the Credit Valley Conservation to help acquire wetland properties that are adjacent to the Elora Cataract Trailway. We are fortunate to have Eric Baldin (Conservation Lands Planner, Credit Valley Conservation) as our guest speaker at this year's AGM. Come hear about this opportunity as Eric explains why and how land can be acquired.

Our expanded "Hike the Trail" series last year was very

well received. Our most popular walk was the evening "Flight of the Fireflies". It was a big success with families. This year we have expanded to three evening walks. Come out to one hike or all the hikes. We hope to see you there.

Your memberships make it possible for ECTA to continue and do all the things you read about in our newsletters. If you are a current member, thank you for your ongoing support. If your membership is up for renewal, we hope you'll see the value of \$25 well spent.

The commemorative LIONS bench program, Project B.O.O.T. (Benches on our Trailway) continues to be a success. We have pretty well filled the section between Elora and 3rd line outside Fergus. Select locations between 3rd line and Cataract are still available. For further details, contact Raymond Soucy at info@trailway.org or call 519-843-7703.

You will read further on in the newsletter about the Wellington Place/Trask Lands Concept Plan and how the ECTA is involved. This is a unique opportunity for Wellington County. What we do now will define for years to come how this current Greenland is used. Let us be bold in our thinking and innovative in our concepts.

I'll close my comments by thanking all the wonderful volunteers that make up the ECTA. As you will read in the following pages of the newsletter, there are several great projects in the works for this year thanks to our volunteers.

See you on the trail.

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Join us for
Hike the Trail!
 Series 2011
 Full details on p. 8

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, May 15th 2-4 p.m.
Elora Centre for the Arts

Guest Speaker – **Eric Baldin**, Senior Conservation Lands Planner, Credit Valley Conservation, will speak about the potential for wetland acquisition along the Elora Cataract Trailway.

Come and hear how the Land Acquisition program for the Credit Valley Conservation works. Also hear about potential wetland acquisitions for properties located along the Elora Cataract Trailway.

Mark this date on your calendar!

Trails Open Ontario June 25th

We'll once again be participating in The Ontario Heritage Trust's "Trails Open Ontario" program. On June 25th we'll be conducting short hikes starting at the museum. More details will be available closer to the event on our website (www.trailway.org) and on the Elora/Fergus tourism website www.elorafergus.travel.

Trails Open Ontario celebrates its 5th year and is modelled on the "Doors Open Ontario" program. It offers the public an opportunity to experience some of the 88,000 km of trails found in Ontario. Most of the events involve hiking and all are free.

Wellington Walks - 2010 Edition

The *Wellington Walks* booklet is now available online at www.wellington.ca. To find it, enter "Wellington Walks Trail Guide" in the search box on the homepage. It is 45 pages long and includes maps of the various trails. Printed versions are available at all Wellington County libraries.

Share Your Stories

Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Have you had an interesting experience on the trail that you would like to share; or, have you seen uncommon birds during spring or fall migration; or, have you encountered other wildlife; etc. – *we'd love to hear your stories*. You may send your articles and/or photos to info@trailway.org.

2011 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

From the Government of Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration website: "The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards honour the thousands of people who generously contribute their time as volunteers across Ontario. These awards are an important way to recognize volunteers who have provided service over many years. Volunteers play a very important role in our quality of life. They help to build safe, caring and vital communities, and donate their time to help others. In fact, Ontarians donate more than five million hours of their time each year to organizations and communities across the province."

We congratulate the following Elora Cataract Trailway Association Directors who are receiving the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards this year.

- Sandi Moss - 10 Years' Award
- Gail Brown - 5 Years' Award
- Gerry Blacklock - 5 Years' Award
- J Raymond Soucy - 5 Years' Award

Membership Fact

Did you know that a part of your membership goes to support **Hike Ontario** which is an umbrella organization for Trail and Hiking Clubs in Ontario.

Hike Ontario encourages walking, hiking and trail development in Ontario by providing a province-wide voice and support resource for hiking and walking groups and pedestrian trail users www.hikeontario.com

Volunteers Needed

Gardeners for the Gerrie Road Trailhead - A few hours a month during the growing season is what's needed. If you're interested, please email info@trailway.org or call Sandi at 519-846-9980.



Portable Washroom

Every year, we receive many requests for washrooms to be installed along the Trailway. This year, the ECTA will provide funding for a portable washroom to be installed at the Beatty Line parking lot. It will be in place from May to September.

Hike the Trail *Series 2011*

Those who receive and read this newsletter are already convinced that the Elora Cataract Trailway provides an excellent venue for regular outdoor activities. Our Hike the Trail Series are a combined effort on the part of the Trailway and the *In Motion* initiative of the Parks and Recreation Department of Centre Wellington to encourage as many people as possible to get active and enjoy the charms of our trailway on 8 Sundays of the year. Yes, you will see this linear park in every season and in many different kinds of weather. We will be walking rain or shine but not during electrical storms or blizzards.

A solid core of hikers joined us during 2010. From 15 to 50 people of all ages enjoyed the walks, some talks, prizes and the opportunity to meet new friends with similar interests.

We are continuing our series in 2011, one Sunday a month from May to December. We will begin at the Gerrie Road entrance to the Trailway for the first four hikes. Five of the hikes will begin at 10:00 a.m., but this year we have decided to hike in the evening in June, July and August at 9:00 p.m. We hope to see those elusive fire flies in either June or July and a full moon in August if the sky is clear. Bring your flashlights and glow sticks for a magical experience in the cooler dusk temperatures.

In September and October, we will move to the Belwood Lake Conservation Area (the main entrance and parking area on County Road 18) as our starting point. Derek Strubb from the GRCA will give a brief talk about the Shand Dam on September 11th.

We will return to the Gerrie Road entrance for the November and December hikes.

Please encourage family and friends to join us. You can find the **full hike schedule on the back page** of this newsletter, or at www.trailway.org or in the Spring Leisure booklet published by the Centre Wellington Parks and Recreation Department.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the hikes, you can call me at 519-846-8342 or e-mail me at gisaylor@gmail.com.

Come join us for some exercise and fun.

Gail Brown

Participants on one of the *Hike the Trail* walks in 2010



Photo: Peter Szmidi

Notes from the Trailway: My 'Get Lean' Story

I quit smoking 6 1/2 years ago when I found out I was going to be a grandmother. I quit successfully but gained 25 pounds. I spoke with my doctor and he referred me to the Dufferin Area Family Health Team (Dieticians, Fitness Promoters etc.). I went to evening classes once a week for 8 weeks (we were weighed each week) where various professionals spoke with us about many subjects: getting back to Canada's Food Guide; eating healthily and keeping active (exercising); eating out of boredom; etc. Our Fitness Promoter got us involved in a local gym where we met once a week for an hour and worked our way through a series of exercises. We started off with a very easy work out and over 10 months progressed to an extremely extensive weekly work out. We are now finished with the gym and a handful of us have stayed in contact and workout together, hike together, stay in contact through email, etc. All of us have successfully lost weight ... some still have more to loose ... some have reached their target weight and now the hard part is to maintain that weight. A gentleman in our group lives in Elora and told us about your monthly hikes (i.e., *Hike the Trail Series*) and that is how we became involved.

Karen Wilton, Orangeville

Who's Been Feeding the Birds ?

Winter on the trailway just wouldn't be the same without Wayne & Joan Prowse. Since 1996, Wayne - accompanied in recent years by his wife Joan - has tended daily to the 15 bird feeders you see along the trails. This past winter they were spread out over an area around the Gerrie Rd. trail-head. As Joan is quick to point out, the birds would likely do fine on their own but the feeders attract them closer to the trails so people are able to enjoy them.

For the first 10 years Joan & Wayne paid for the seed themselves. Over time, it became too expensive, so they took a year off and trailway users noticed the birds' absence. The ECTA took notice, decided to pay for the seed and, since then, Joan & Wayne are back out every day topping up the feeders. This is such an amazing commitment on their part - a valued gift to the trail community, indeed! The birds consumed \$300 worth of seed this past season -- black oil sunflower seed, which appeals to a wide variety of birds, and niger seeds which the finches enjoy.

Joan says 90% of the birds seen along the trailway over the past winter were goldfinches. Other regulars were cardinals, blue jays, juncos, and house finches. There was a late season influx of redpolls and a rare sight of cedar waxwings in January, eating buckthorn berries which, unfortunately, spreads the seeds of this unwanted tree. Several wild turkeys were seen as was a somewhat unusual but welcome visitor, a red-bellied woodpecker. Joan said the snow buntings were a beautiful sight in early Spring as they cleaned up the cornfields adjoining the trail. Another common sight were the "Canadian Air Force", as Joan calls them -- Canada geese. Notable by their absence this year were the pine siskins.

Joan and Wayne also tend to the blue bird boxes along the trails. To their knowledge, 90% of the birds who take up residence are tree swallows. Chickadees and house wrens are also frequent occupants. The task of tending to the bird houses involves not only putting them up and maintaining them but also cleaning them out every Spring, making them ready for a new crop of birds.

Many thanks to Joan and to Wayne - their dedication is an inspiration!

Pat Martin

Project B.O.O.T.

Project B.O.O.T. (Benches On Our Trailway) is well on its way. Six benches were installed in 2010 and six more will be going in this spring between the Elora trailhead at Gerrie Road and Belwood. There are still a few more spaces available for new benches between Fergus and Cataract. Each bench costs \$450 which includes installation and maintenance by local LIONS clubs. Contact Raymond Soucy at 519-843-7703 or email info@trailway.org for more information.



TRAILWAY User's Code

- Stay on the Trail surface
- Keep pets on leash, poop and scoop
- Stay on the right when approaching oncoming users
- Give right-of-way to the smallest and slowest user
- Follow the instructions provided on Trailway signs
- Do not climb fences or take shortcuts
- Respect the privacy of landowners along the Trailway
- Leave wildlife and plants for others to enjoy
- Enjoy the Trailway again and again and again



"Thank you!"
to **Sentex** for providing ECTA with Free Web Hosting.
Please consider **Sentex** when looking for an ISP.

Active Transportation in Guelph and in Wellington County

During the past two to three years Rick Goodfellow, Ian Rankine and Tom Skimson have worked to encourage the County of Wellington to consider the establishment of paved biking lanes on selected county roads as a way of encouraging cycling and exercise. As a result of numerous meetings and with the support of "In Motion" and the Wellington Dufferin Guelph Health Unit and the county Transportation committee the county council has formed an Active Transportation Committee to develop a policy and to report back to the county council. It is hoped that the paved roadside bike routes will link to existing bicycle routes including the Elora Cataract Trailway.

Active Communities Summit

Elora Cataract Trailway Association members who are interested in Active Transportation will be interested to know about the **Active Communities Summit** scheduled to be held Friday May 27 at the University of Guelph Arboretum. The featured speaker is Dave Cieslewicz, former mayor of Madison Wisconsin, recipient of the bicycle friendly communities gold award. All are welcome. Please register before May 13 at the website below. A \$10 registration includes a light breakfast and lunch.

Details are available at www.sharetheroad.ca/guelph-summit-s14285

Tom Skimson

New Trans Canada Trail Signs

Look for them -- 50 new Trans Canada Trail Signs will be installed this year as part of the signage improvement and update project along the trailway. The following is the new logo of the Trans Canada Trail.



The Elora Cataract Trailway is part of the Trans Canada Trail network. Find other trails to try and more information at www.tctrail.ca

ECTA Website Updates

A new **FAQ** (Frequently Asked Questions) section has been added to our website. As well, check out the new **photo gallery** and look for **upcoming events** on the Trailway.

DONATION:

To give a donation please make cheque payable to either one of the foundations listed below. All donations to the foundations will receive an income tax receipt. The funds will flow back to the ECTA for trail improvements and capital projects.

Credit Valley Conservation Foundation The Grand River Foundation

Mail to: Elora Cataract Trailway Association, P.O. Box 13, Elora, ON N0B 1S0

VOLUNTEER: I would like to VOLUNTEER, please contact me.

TRAIL CAPTAIN: I would like to Trail Captain, please contact me.

If you have **pictures of the trailway** you would like to contribute to the trailway website, email them to general@trailway.org. You can also mail a CD to P.O. Box 13, Elora ON N0B 1S0

Have a look at your mailing label. It will tell you when your membership expires.

Wellington Place/Trask Lands Concept Plan - Update

As an identified stakeholder group, the Elora Cataract Trailway Association has participated in recent workshops and walkabouts of the property in regards to the future of Wellington Place/Trask Lands.

Our goal is to be a positive contributor to the development process of this potential wonderful Greenlands and county services area. Due to the location being close to so many trails, there is an opportunity to develop a mixture of service related buildings intertwined with a nature and trail network that enhances the overall aesthetic and health value of the entire development. Doing so would enhance the value for current occupants (Wellington Place/ museum/library) and future uses including the OPP station and hospital.

If you would like to read our letter which provides our feedback to the planning process or view other relevant documents, email info@trailway.org. The more citizens we have involved in this process, the better.

You can review the materials provided at last fall's Open

House, including maps, by going to the Wellington County website, www.wellington.ca. In the search box (top left) on the home page, type in "concept plan". This will show you the links to the appropriate section of the website.

The next public open house for the Wellington Place/Trask Lands Concept Plan is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 25** from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Aboyne Hall, Wellington County Museum & Archives building.

When does my membership expire?

If you look at your mailing label, the top right corner will have the word EXPIRY: *year of expiry*. For example if you see EXPIRY: 2011, this means your membership is due. If you are receiving your newsletter electronically, your email notification will include this information. Your membership runs on a calendar year.

Membership renewal & Drive

ECTA will be putting more effort into our membership drive in 2011 under the direction of Marilyn Cowe. If you would like to help out, please contact the Trailway at info@trailway.org or call Marilyn at 519-843-5912.



www.trailway.org

Elora Cataract Trailway Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

Renewal New Membership Gift No. in Household _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

\$25 — 1 Year \$100 — 5 Years

Mail to: Elora Cataract Trailway Association, PO Box 13, Elora, ON N0B 1S0

“Spring on the Trail” Event

The Kissing Bridge Trailway

Saturday May 14, 2011

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

more details at: www.springonthetrail.ca

This is a 5 km (2-hr) guided tour and the trail is wheelchair accessible. Its starting point is the Trailway parking lot at the eastern terminus of Schuett Road, Ariss. Organizers hope to get a lot of people out on the trail that day to enjoy fun activities and scheduled walks, runs, and bike rides.

See trail map below (from website)

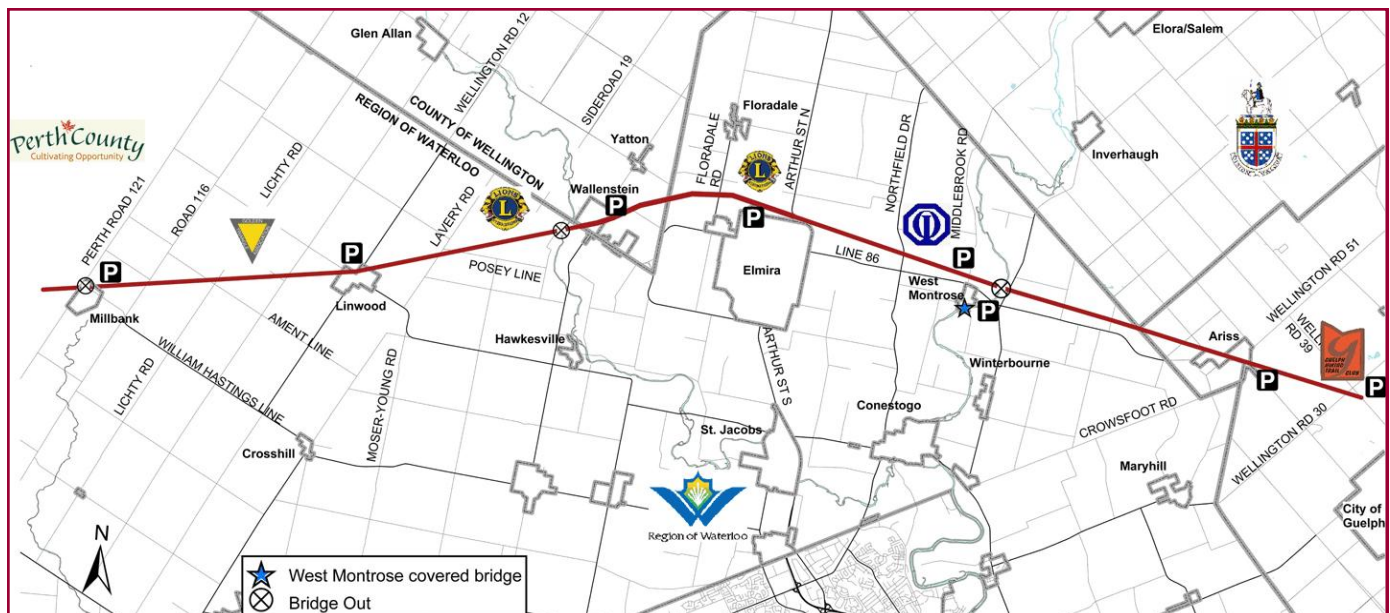
There will be great prizes too:

Grand Prize: \$2,500 travel voucher

Other Prizes: BlackBerry PlayBook

+ more to be announced

Passports to the event will be sold at a cost of \$20.00 each and will qualify you for a chance to win the grand prize and to participate in other events. Proceeds will go towards the cost of trail infrastructure, including suspension bridges over the Grand River near West Montrose and Wallenstein which are needed to complete key portions of the trail in Waterloo Region.



Lions Annual Dog Walk

Sunday May 29th is the Annual Walk for Guide Dogs held at over 200 locations across Canada. The Fergus Lions Club is again sponsoring this event which starts at 1:00pm from Forfar Ball Park in Fergus and is using a 2.5km stretch of the Elora Cataract Trailway from the park to east of Fergus. All donations from this event go to the training of Guide Dogs used to help many Canadians with vision, hearing and other disabilities.

For more information, contact Bob Meadows at 519 787 7405 or by email at joemer@skytalker.ca.

Bob Meadows
Chair, Fergus Lions Club Purina Walk for Guide Dogs

Support the ECTA

The ECTA's goals are to Promote, Enhance and Protect the Elora Cataract Trailway. While we are pleased that trail usage appears to be increasing, membership numbers do not reflect this. It is of the utmost importance to the future of the trailway that it is supported financially by those who use it.

There is a lot to do -- maintenance, on-going representation, new projects to continue to enhance the trailway experience, expansion of the trailway network, etc. None of this is feasible without your continued support. Please make sure to renew your membership if it expires this year and consider giving a membership as a gift. A one year membership costs only \$25 or \$100 for 5 years.

HIKE the trail!



ELORA CATARACT
TRAILWAY
www.trailway.org



Series 2011

Discover the beautiful
Elora Cataract Trailway ...
Centre Wellington's Hidden Gem.

- Sunday MAY 1st, 10 am start - Welcome Spring
- Sunday JUNE 12th, 9 pm start - Flight of the Fireflies
- Sunday JULY 10th, 9 pm start - Hot Summer Nights
- Sunday AUGUST 14th, 9 pm start - Full Moon
- Sunday SEPTEMBER 11th, 10 am start - Indian Summer
- Sunday OCTOBER 2nd, 10 am start - Fall Harvest
- Sunday NOVEMBER 6th, 10 am start - Saving Daylight
- Sunday DECEMBER 4th, 10 am start - Jingle Bells

Mark your calendar.

May to August - Hikes will begin at the Gerrie Road entrance, Elora

September & October - Hikes will begin at the Belwood Conservation Area - Main Entrance

November & December - Hikes will begin at the Gerrie Road entrance, Elora

Evening hikes - please remember to bring your flash light!

For more information call 519.843.2800.



Discover the Elora Cataract Trailway today,
and be Active every day ... for your Health



www.centrewellington.ca