



From the Chair

J. Raymond Soucy

I can't possibly fit into these few paragraphs everything we are involved in. So let me start by inviting everyone to the Annual General Meeting on Sunday March 28th at 2PM. This year we are holding the meeting at the Elora Centre for the Arts.

Looking back, 2009 was a good year for getting things done on the Trailway. With the dedicated hard work of Gail Brown in conjunction with Donna Ross & Dorothy Smith from *In Motion*, we held our "Hike the Trail" event in October. This summer we have expanded our "Hike the Trail" from a single event to a series of seven Sunday morning walks and an evening Firefly walk. Check the upcoming Community Leisure Guide and our website (www.trailway.org) for updated information.



ECTA Booth at the Fergus Lions Home Show, 2009

such as the Elora Hort Conference, Hike Ontario Annual Summit and last year's Fergus LIONS Home show. It gives us an opportunity to inform people about the Trailway and about the association. If there are events you think we might benefit by attending, please let us know.

In 2010 we are looking to raise the profile of the association and of the Trailway. If you're interested in helping us with this project, let us know.

MEMBERSHIPS – I'd like to close off my comments with a request for you to renew your membership and to encourage others to do the same. There is the obvious need of the financial contribution memberships bring and that without it, we could not continue our work. Your membership helps contribute to the projects you'll read about in this and past newsletters. Past issues are available online at our

Cont. on p. 2

We tackled several trail improvement projects in 2009 including the Gerrie Road trailhead. We really wanted this busy trailhead to look great for both local folks and all the tourists using the trail. These efforts were spearhead by Sandi Moss and Gail Brown with the support of several volunteers who came out and helped. Last year was a great year for planting trees and we held two separate tree plantings. One in the spring and a second (part of the Warden's Tree Planting) in the fall. I think we've hit on a good balance between the size of trees we need to plant which can survive the competition from tall vegetation and the numbers we want to get in the ground. A new and important project is our LIONS Commemorative Bench Program which we call "Project B.O.O.T." or "Benches On Our Trailway". In this newsletter is a write up accompanied by pictures of a few benches we have already installed. We'll have even more pictures on display at our AGM (Sunday March 28th @ 2PM, Elora Centre for the Arts) and will be glad to take any questions you might have regarding this very valuable program.

Ian Rankine has been doing some great work on Heritage Trail designation and the danger of losing existing trails. We continue to set up our display at various events

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2009 - A Good Year for Planting Trees

Part of our five year plan for the Trailway includes planting trees along the Trailway. We started two years ago by asking Nathan Munn (GRCA Arborist) to walk a section of the trail with us. The purpose was to review tree planting practices for the Trailway and point out what and where we should be planting or not planting trees. This first event turned out to be a very helpful exercise in the development of our plan. Because of the generally tall vegetation in the summer, we decided to plant trees that were already several years old instead of small plugs. Our goal is to have a high survival rate of what we plant instead of going for sheer volume.

Last year turned out to be a great year for tree planting. We planted 150 trees in the spring and another 130 trees in the fall. The species included Tamarack, White Cedar, Eastern White Pine, White Spruce, Sumac, Burl Oak, and Ninebark. These trees were

generally 3 to 4 feet tall and in pots or in burlap. The first group of trees came from the GRCA nursery and the fall planting came from the Green Legacy Nursery. Our fall

planting was a part of the Warden's tree planting program. We are grateful for the support from Green Legacy, Township of Centre Wellington and our Warden Joanne Ross-Zuj for including the Elora Cataract Trailway in their plans.

We are planning to continue with this program again in 2010. A very big thank you to all the volunteers who helped us plant all these trees. It wouldn't have happened without them.



From The Chair, cont.

website. Your membership also supports our web-site (www.trailway.org), Trail Map, ECTA has a representative at the provincial level with Hike Ontario (HO) and through HO, Hike Canada and Ontario Trails Council. Equally important, a strong membership shows that we consider trails important for our communities. You can support all these projects and activities for \$25 per year or \$100 for 5 years.

I want to thank Pat Martin for her wonderful work on this newsletter. It's one of those silent, behind the scene tasks that are so important. Next time you see Pat, tell her you read the newsletter and thank her for putting it together.

Also check out our web-site (www.trailway.org) for the most up to date information on events and happenings on the Trailway. See you at the AGM.



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



Little Folks Redevelopment proposal to prohibit public access to the Portage and Cove Trails

A note to members from Raymond:

The ECTA's main focus is the Elora Cataract Trailway (ECT) and how we protect, enhance and promote it. However, one trail by itself is not enough. We are fortunate to have a network of trails that join up with the ECT or are close to the ECT. The complete network of these trails and local parks helps make our area so wonderful and attracts hikers, walkers, runners, birders, kayakers and admirers from both far and wide (i.e. tourism) and locally.

Some of these trails are fairly new and some have been in use for hundreds, perhaps thousands of years. The Portage and Cove trails fall into the latter category. There have been reports and concerns these trails will be closed to the public due to a development proposal by Little Folks Development. Fortunately, many local citizens have been raising their concerns about this.

Following is a letter of support sent out by the ECTA board. As you'll read, Ian Rankine who prepared the letter, has thoroughly researched the issue and has provided a detailed explanation of why this should not happen. We cannot take the ongoing existence of trails for granted. Please take every opportunity to show your support for this and all trails.

Our letter:

The Directors of the Elora Cataract Trailway Association, at our November Board meeting, passed unanimously a motion to inform the elected officials and staff of both the County of Wellington and the Township of Centre Wellington of our opposition to the proposed closure of the Portage and Cove trails as a result of the Little Folks redevelopment.

We were pleased to read in the 20 November, 2009, issue of *The Wellington Advertiser*, the following quotation attributed to Mr. Brett Salmon, Director of Planning: "We told them [Little Folks] we expect public use to remain" and "We [Township staff] don't support what's in their plans."

The Directors of the Elora Cataract Trailway Association request that both Township staff and our elected officials clarify publicly the following line in the Special Policy Areas D.10.2 of the Official Plan as it relates to redevelopment of the Little Folks property: **"Any design for these lands shall address public access to the Grand River."** (paragraph 3, p. 48)

Furthermore, the Directors of the Elora Cataract Trailway Association request that Council find an appropriate vehicle to publicly endorse the position articulated by the Township's Director of Planning: namely, that public access will be maintained as part of the redeveloped Little Folks Property.

Some of our reasons for maintaining public access to the Portage and Cove Trails include,

- Official Plan support for trailways: B.3 (Vision Statement); B.4 (Major Goals); C.2.21 (Cultural Heritage Landscapes); C.12.6 (Greenspace Corridors); C.16 (Tourism)
- Urban Design Guidelines [UDG] support for trailways: 1.1 (Vision); 1.2.1 (Urban Design Issues); 1.3.2 (Council commitment to UDG); 1.3.3 (Development Community and UDG); 2.1 (Public participation); 2.3 (Linking); 3.1.1 (particularly Action item p. 15) 3.2.4 (especially Trail system and private lands); 5.1.8 (Linkages and Trails)
- Greenland Centre Wellington's *Green Infrastructure Guidelines* support for trailways: Section 5 (Transportation and Trails)
- Proposed Victoria Crescent Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation District Draft Study support for trailways: 2.1 (Portage and Cove trailways and early tourism); 4.6 (Elora Gorge Rim Trailway System); 4.7 (Access for the Public to the Elora Gorge); 4.15 (Visual Character of Elora Gorge Rim Trailway System); 7.0 (District Boundary)
- Public support for trailways: numerous letters from both individuals and organizations in opposition to the closure of the Portage and Cove trails.

Submitted on behalf of the Directors of the Elora Cataract Trailway Association by J. Raymond Soucy, Chair



Annual General Meeting

Sunday March 28th – 2:00 pm
Elora Centre for the Arts



Guest Speaker Andy Goldie,
Director of Parks
and Recreation,
Township of
Centre Wellington

Everyone welcome, bring a friend.



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

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: 2009, 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.

Hike the Trail Event, 2009

Rain! Rain! Rain! Our summer of leaky days and nights has spilled over into the autumn. In spite of the threatening skies, a fine group of organizers, volunteers, veteran trail users and promoters and a few new comers participated in our annual Hike the Trail event on Saturday, October 3rd, 2009. Two Olympic athletes joined us sponsored by the RBC Olympians Program. Darda Sales, a Paralympic swimmer and Ohenewa Akuffo, a freestyle Olympic wrestler added their enthusiasm and sparkle to our walks.

After welcomes and prizes – and there were prizes for almost everyone – the walkers chose one of two routes. One was wheel chair and stroller friendly and the other was more challenging as it included a stretch down by the river in Fergus. Snack and water stations provided refreshments along the way.

This event was organized by a partnership between the Elora Cataract Trailway Association and *In Motion*, a committee of the Recreation and Parks Department. Special thank you are in order for the organization and planning of Donna Ross and Dorothy Smith from *In Motion*, to Peter Szmidt, our

event photographer, to Sandi Moss, our Trailway volunteer coordinator, to Tom Skimson, our emcee, and to all volunteers. We also greatly appreciated the participation of our mayor, Joanne Ross-Zuj, and Andy Goldie at an extremely busy time.

It was disappointing to see a minimal turn out of participants this year, but weather and competing events and not a lack of planning and promotion were the determining factors. We are already looking at event possibilities for the spring of 2010. A Glo-stick evening walk with fun competitions or a Fire Fly Jaunt? We are open to any suggestions to promote increased participation from all age groups, particularly the younger ones. Just email me at

gisaylor@gmail.com with your ideas.

Those who read this newsletter already make the Trailway a part of their '*In Motion*' lifestyle!!! Spread the word and we'll see you at the next event.



Joanne Ross-Zuj, Darda Sales & Ohenewa Akuffo



Photos by Peter Szmidt

Gail Brown



New Signage for our Trails

We've wanted to tackle improving the signage on the Trailway for some time now. It's one of the key priorities in our five year plan for the Trailway. I'm pleased to announce we are going to start working on signage this summer.

There are two types of signage we'd like to address. The first is the day-to-day type signage. Signs directing people to the Trailway, how to navigate the street section in Fergus to get from Beatty Line to Gartshore St, kilometre marks, trail-head markers, etc. The second are interpretive signs explaining what people see (vegetation, wildlife, history) as they enjoy the ECT.



We're going to focus on the first type of signage this year. This is one of those projects that requires several organizations to work together as some of the new signage will be on the Trailway and others on streets and county roads. How much we get accomplished this year will depend on how much we can afford. If you would like to help financially support this project, you can make a tax deductible donation to the Grand River Foundation or the Credit Valley Conservation Foundation. You can mail the cheque to ECTA (PO BOX 13, Elora, ON N0B 1S0) and we'll forward to

the foundations for you or you can mail directly to the foundations stating you want to funds going to the Elora Cataract Trailway Association.

I want to thank Derek Strub (GRCA) and Victoria Maines (CVC) for their valuable help and guidance with this project.

Raymond

Get In-the-loop

We've had many people ask us when we'll create a mailing list to inform them of future trail events. With the upcoming AGM (March 28th @ 2PM) and the eight "Hike the Trail" events including the not to be missed firefly walk in July, now seems a perfect time for us to start. We'll also have opportunities for people to participate in tree plantings and Trailhead improvement projects. If you'd like to be added to this mailing group, simply send an email to info@trailway.org asking to be added. We'll be glad to do so.

If you're like me, you only want to receive emails you've requested and want to understand how your email will be used. As mentioned above, we'll use your email to notify you of Trailway events and happenings. What we won't do is sell your email address or give it to other groups.

Raymond



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, PO 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.

We are looking for **pictures** of the trailway that we can use on the trailway website. If you have pictures you would like to contribute, email them to general@trailway.org. You can also mail a CD to our PO box.

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

FAQ Section to be Added to Website

We answer a number of questions sent to us via email, info@trailway.org. Often we get inquiries from out of town people planning to come to this area and wanting to use the trail. Here are a few of the frequently asked questions we answer. We are working on a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section to be added to our website this summer.

Q - Do I have to pay to use the trail?

A - No there are no fees to use the Trailway.

Q - Where can I park my vehicle?

A - See the "MAP" section of the website for Parking lot locations. We also include GPS co-ordinates for these locations.

Q - Are there any campgrounds close to the Trailway?

A - Although there are no campgrounds directly off the Trailway, there is a major campground at Elora Gorge Conservation Area, see GRCA website www.grandriver.ca for more details.

Q - How can I submit pictures to be added to the ECTA Web-site?

A - We are always on the lookout for pictures of the Trailway. You can email them to general@trailway.org.

Q - Can I download a Map of the Trailway?

A - Yes, you can download from the link on the Home Page or look under the "MAP" section of our web-site, www.trailway.org.



Commemorative Bench Program

Last year was the initial year of our Commemorative Bench Program and we're pleased to report that a total of 5 Benches have been installed so far. Several more are planned for 2010. The original idea came from Denis Vinette of the Belwood LIONS and now includes 6 LIONS Clubs (Elora, Fergus, Belwood, Marsville, Hillsburgh, Erin), the GRCA, CVC and ETCA. Project B.O.O.T. (Benches on our Trailway) goal is to place benches all along the 47km Trailway to provide people with an area to sit and rest or just sit and enjoy the Trailway.

For the price of \$450, anyone can purchase a commemorative bench for the Trailway. The benches may be purchased from any of the 6 LIONS Clubs involved. The LIONS club will provide the bench (GRCA & CVC approved design), install it on the Trailway and provide maintenance. These are great benches to commemorate someone's memory or show support from a company or organization.

Included in this article are pictures of several of the benches we've installed so far. If you are interesting in purchasing a bench you can contact the following LIONS organizations (Elora, Fergus, Belwood, Marsville, Hillsburgh, Erin) or myself (Raymond Soucy) at info@trailway.org or 519-843-7703.



Orton



Shand Dam

HIKE the trail!



ELORA CATARACT
TRAILWAY
www.trailway.org



Series 2010

An invitation to join a series of casual hikes on the *beautiful* Elora Cataract Trailway ...
Centre Wellington's Hidden **Gem**.

- Sunday **MAY 2nd**, 10 am start - Signs of Spring ... Birds & Buds
- Sunday **JUNE 6th**, 10 am start - Lilacs and Blossoms
- Sunday **JULY 11th**, 9 pm start - Flight of the Fireflies
Evening hike - please remember to bring your flash light!
- Sunday **AUGUST 8th**, 10 am start - Butterflies and Asters
- Sunday **SEPTEMBER 12th**, 10 am start - Apples & Berries
- Sunday **OCTOBER 3rd**, 10 am start - Cornstalks & Goblins
- Sunday **NOVEMBER 7th**, 10 am start - Poppies & Memories
- Sunday **DECEMBER 5th**, 10 am start - Jingle Bell Hike

Mark your **calendar** & enter your name
for a fabulous **prize!**

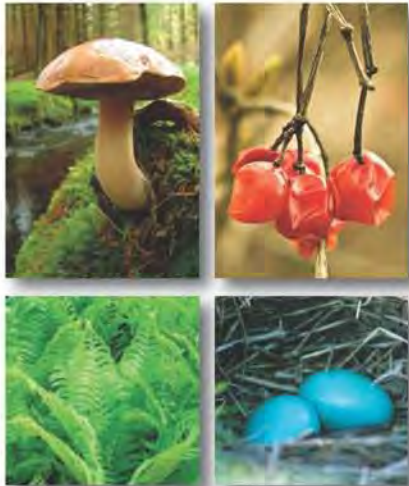
Enter your name at each hike to increase your chances ...
Draw held December 5th.

Bring your camera, and take a photo along the way and yours may be chosen for the cover of the C.W. Community Guide - Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter, or the new version of the Elora Cataract Trailway Brochure Map

Please submit your high resolution digital images along with contact information to dsmith@centrewellington.ca
Or for more information, please phone 519-843-2800.

If your photo is selected, you will be required to complete a written waiver.

ALL HIKES WILL BEGIN AT THE GERRIE ROAD ENTRANCE,
RAIN OR SHINE. MAPS WILL BE AVAILABLE.



*Explore the Elora Cataract Trailway today,
and be Active everyday ... for your Health*

