



ELORA CATARACT
TRAILWAY
ASSOCIATION

FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Annual General Meeting

Sunday March 19th, 2017

Victoria Park Seniors' Centre
150 Albert St. W. Fergus

Special Guest Speakers are: Doug
and Lynda Wilson. Speaking
about Lynda's book "Walking
Home"

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From the Chair

In past newsletters I have talked about a few "Big" projects we've wanted to accomplish. Upgrading signage was one and for the most part is complete. The 25th Anniversary and the Founders Project is well underway with more to come in 2017. Be sure to tune in to Cogeco this month to watch The Founders Forum. I believe that partnerships are a key to volunteer organizations and we have absolutely fantastic partners. We are finally able to talk about tackling invasive species because of our wonderful partnership with Communitrees and CW GRIP.

We had volunteers who wanted to help but we couldn't find someone (s) who would take on the leadership role for this effort. Along came Carolyn Crozier and Kelsye Coulter. First it was Communitrees planting trees on the ECT and then it was CW GRIP or "Centre Wellington Getting Rid of Invasive Plants" tackling invasive species removal on the ECT. Their most recent efforts with 9 dedicated volunteers removed over 180 buckthorn and honeysuckle plants. For more information contact Carolyn at: ccrozier@wightman.ca or follow CW GRIP on Facebook, www.facebook.com/CWGRIP.

It's wonderful to see the ECTA Extractigator hard at work.

The date and speakers for our AGM are set. A few years ago we had Doug Cerson, Executive Director G2G Rail Trail as our guest speaker. This year we'll have Doug and Lynda Wilson who walked the entire trail and wrote a book about it!

We have a new trail connection in the Cottontail Road Trail and we were thrilled to participate in the opening event. There is also lots of exciting trail work happening in Erin these days. Keep an eye on what Erin is doing (www.erin.ca/living-here/trails) as there will be new trails to enjoy in the future.

In closing, I'd like to welcome our new members and thank those members that have been longtime supporters of the Trailway. Your faith in the Trailway Association keeps us going.

See you at the AGM. See you on the trail.

J Raymond Soucy

WE WANT TO SEE YOUR PHOTOS!

Do you have any photos from the trailway? We want to hear from you and see your photos! Please submit your pictures along with a brief explanation of where you are on the trailway to: info@trailway.org

If you have a lot of pictures, feel free to set up a Dropbox link or to a similar service instead of emailing the pictures.

Your pictures have a chance of being included in our exhibit at the Wellington County Museum in 2017

THE FOUNDERS PROJECT

Submitted by: Rick Goodfellow



Perhaps you have heard of this exciting initiative. Approximately 25 years have passed since the abandoned former C.P.R. rail line from Elora to Cataract was acquired for public use, and converted into the Trailway enjoyed by thousands today. It is timely and appropriate that we now recognize those individuals and organizations who worked tirelessly to make this happen.

There are many stories we want to share. Some have already been recorded as part of the initial element of this project. In late October we held a 'Founders Forum'. Here, many of the original 'founders' recalled the months, which evolved into years, of seeking community support, working with different levels of government and acquiring the necessary funds to purchase the 'right of way'. Because of the assistance of the Township of Centre Wellington, the technical expertise of Cogeco and the skilled interviewing by Mark Paine of the 'Grand 101 FM., the session was a great success.

These stories will reach a wider audience next spring as part of a several month long exhibit to be held at the Wellington County Museum.. The museum's staff recognizes that the Trailway's story is ideal to incorporate in the celebration of Canada's 150 birthday in 2017.

An overall theme was discussed of the trail linking communities and spanning generations. The exhibit will include a variety of exciting and creative images done by a wide range of citizens, both young and old, recognizing the past, present and future of the Trailway.

As such, if you have some documentation, photos (recent or past) or have access to any period artifacts which would embellish the displays, please contact: info@trailway.org

We are anticipating an official opening day celebration in mid to late May on the Museum grounds when we would welcome your attendance.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you may provide.



Be sure to check out our website for all the latest news: www.trailway.org



A Special Thank you to Township of Centre Wellington for all of their continued support

Communitrees Update—Two Fall Events Hosted on the Trailway

November 6th was an Invasive Species Workshop. The shrub buckthorn is a highly destructive alien plant threatening our native trees and woodlands. This event helped volunteers to learn to easily identify this invasive and to effectively remove it 'hands-on'. Volunteers were also able to try out the newly purchased Extractigator!

November 12th was the Autumn Native Tree Planting session. Volunteers were invited out to work alongside like minded people to enhance the beauty of our trailway by adding more native trees and shrubs. These natives are even more critical now, as Centre Wellington is quickly losing its ash trees. They also did some important work of tending to and preparing for winter the native trees we planted previously. Because of this kind of care, our native plantings have been thriving.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Carolyn Crozier for organizing the events as well as all volunteers that came out and participated. We would also like to give a special thank you to Kelsye Coulter, a local biologist, and Serena Guenther of Baum Professional Tree Care for their help.

For more information on future events please contact: Carolyn Crozier— ccrozier@wightman.ca

Do you want to see the Founder's Project?

We are happy to confirm the airing date and times for our Founder's Project on Cogeco Cable:

- Thursday December 15th/ 22nd at 8:30pm
- Monday December 19th at 9pm
- Friday December 16th/ 23rd at 11:30am

When does my membership expire?

If you look at your envelope, above the address field and to the right, you will see "Membership Expiry:" following by a year. For example if you see **Membership Expiry: 2016**, this means your membership expired 12/31/2016 and is due for renewal.

Please Renew your Membership

Your Association has been busy this year with lots planned for the coming years. Renewing your membership provides the necessary funds to continue to operate the Association and all the ongoing projects. Equally important, a large membership demonstrates that many people care about the ECT and what happens to it. We should never take it for granted. We have two options, a one year membership for \$25 and a 5 year membership for \$100.



www.trailway.org

Elora Cataract Trailway Association Membership Application Form

Renewal New Membership No. in your household _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ email: _____

\$25—1 Year \$100—5 Years

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

A Special Thank you to the Fergus Giant Tiger



Giant Tiger held a grand opening ceremony on May 14th, 2016 to kick off its new location in Centre Wellington. Not only have they joined the CW Chamber of Commerce, made a charitable donation to the CW Food Bank, they also hosted a charity barbeque at the opening and donated their proceeds to the Elora Cataract Trailway. It was the choice of owner Jeff Reinhart—stating “I think it is such a great trailway system. I’ve used it myself and I think that it is great for the community, young and old...”

Fun GRCA Fact

Did you know that the GRCA does not do any grass cutting along the trailways until after August 1st? This policy is in place due to the nesting of the Bobolink Birds in the area.

Watch for them on the trailway!



Cottontail Road Trail completes county connection to Trans Canada system

The Trans Canada Trail now runs completely through Wellington County!

Officials from the provincial government, County of Wellington, Region of Waterloo and townships of Centre Wellington and Woolwich, gathered to celebrate the opening of the Cottontail Road Trail in Elora on June 17.

The Cottontail Road Trail showcases several types of trails: off-road gravel, grass and paved surfaces, together with on-road gravel, paved and paved shoulder portions. All of these segments come together to connect two major trails in the county: the Kissing Bridge Trailway in Guelph-Eramosa and the Elora Cataract Trailway in Centre Wellington.



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When paying by Cheque:

Our bank is refusing cheques that do not include the complete name of the association—including the word “Association”. When writing out your membership or donation cheque, please make it out to:

“Elora Cataract Trailway Association”

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Newsletter Editor: Courtney Ecclestone