



ELORA CATARACT
TRAILWAY
ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

From the Chair

In 2023 we accomplished two big projects that we've been working on for years. As most can appreciate, big projects often take longer than expected. But both have been worth the effort and will benefit all trail users.

As you'll read on page 2, we have finished replacing all the KIOSK panels on the GRCA section of the ECT. The old panels served us well for many years but had become tired-looking and needed to be updated.

The second big project was trail resurfacing. I'd like to thank the folks at G2G for their help in understanding how we could use a REIST Trail Pro (made in Elmira) to resurface the trailway. In 2023 we spent \$16,000 to resurface the worst parts of the Trailway. We will spend another \$9,000 in 2024 to continue the work. Nexans Canada has contributed \$4,000 towards our 2024 resurfacing cost.

A very big thank you to Nexans Canada. It's not the first time Nexans Canada has supported our work on the Elora Cataract Trailway.

Our AGM this year will be on April 7th at the Victoria Park Seniors Centre in Fergus. The guest speaker is always a much-anticipated part of our meeting. This year's will be Adam Brylowski, Manager of Conservation and Trail at the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC). His talk is entitled "The Bruce Trail: Protecting a Ribbon of Wilderness." Adam will cover an exploration of the Bruce Trail and the significance of the Niagara Escarpment in Southern Ontario.

This will be my last meeting as Chair and Board member although I will continue to volunteer. There are too many people to thank which is what made the work so rewarding.

See you at the AGM and on the Trailway.

J Raymond Soucy

In This Issue

- From the Chair
- AGM April 7 @ 2:00PM
- Thank you TCW support
- Trailway surface maintenance
- Nexans Canada donation
- Kiosks renovation complete
- Bike Bells
- Reporting trail issues
- Reminder: CVC section of ECT partial closure
- Sign up for E-Newsletter



ELORA CATARACT
TRAILWAY
ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, April 7, 2024

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Guest Speaker - Adam Brylowski

Bruce Trail Conservancy

Victoria Park Seniors Centre - Fergus



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



Trailway resurfacing continues

ECTA and GRCA worked together to pilot a resurfacing project in 2022. Five test areas were completed to see how a [Reist Industries Trail Pro](#) would work on our Trailway. The tests were very successful. It was decided to go ahead with extensive resurfacing work on the Trailway. In 2023, just under eight KM were completed. As you can see from the picture, the sections tackled first were the meanest, ugliest sections of the Trailway. We wanted to get those done first. More will be done in 2024.



KIOSK Renewal

In our spring 2023 newsletter, we forecasted the completion of this major project. Indeed, all of the original first-generation panels on the kiosks at Gerrie Rd., Beatty Line, the Shand Dam and Orton have been replaced with current state-of-the-art imagery.

It comes as no surprise that we have received many positive comments from trail users regarding the revitalized kiosks. Please also take note of the new and updated panels devoted to the Trail's initial railway history.

We were extremely fortunate to have Centre Wellington Township's GIS wizard, Greg Wolowich, volunteer numerous hours in finalizing the presentations, assisted similarly over many months by members of our ECTA board. The ongoing support of the GRCA, supplemented with valuable input from the CVC, was of course critical.

We remind you that it is through membership dues, annual grant funding from Centre Wellington Township, and financial support from corporate donors that enabled this work to be done.

It is our goal that the renewal of these particular kiosks will trigger similar refurbishments of those from Hillsburgh through to Catawact. As such, our Trailway will continue to provide all trail users with a warm welcome throughout its 47 KM distance.

“Be swell, use your bell” promotion

Beginning in May 2022, ECTA board members distributed free bicycle bells and maps to all users at selected sites along the Trailway in Centre Wellington and Erin. Increased traffic along the path by both walkers and cyclists, especially during the pandemic, prompted this multi-user courtesy initiative. Since the Highway Traffic Act (Section 75) stipulates all cyclists must be equipped with a bell (or some noise-making device), the promotion also sought to raise public awareness of cyclists’ responsibilities when sharing a public pathway with pedestrians.

Under the slogan ‘Be swell, use your bell’, over 250 bells were provided free of charge. Although almost half of the cyclists encountered during the first giveaway did not have bells nor knew of the lawful requirement to have one, the promotion generated an overwhelming positive public response, especially with parents out for a family outing on the Trailway. By the time of the final distribution date in July 2023, the majority of cyclists encountered rode equipped with bells and thanked the board for the program’s initiative.

Thanks to this supportive feedback, the ‘Be swell, use your bell’ promotion succeeded in its objective to promote respectful travel by all users along the Trailway. If you are interested in receiving a free bicycle bell, please note these will be distributed on a ‘first come, first serve’ basis at the 2024 AGM this coming spring.



Eyes and Ears on our Trailway (reporting trail issues)

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) are committed to maintaining the safe, secure condition of the Elora Cataract Trailway for all users.

As members of the Elora Cataract Trailway Association, you can aid in this process by informing the Conservation Authorities of any safety issues you become aware of, for example a fallen tree, a washed-out trail section, etc.

Gather the following information and send to the contact information listed below.

- 1) What? - Describe the issue:
- 2) Location? (for example, between KM marker x and y or approximate distance and direction from nearest road)
- 3) Contact GRCA or CVC

GRCA Contact:	CVC Contact:
Phone: 519-621-2761 Toll free: 1-866-900-4722 grca@grandriver.ca	Phone: 1-800-367-0890 https://cvc.ca/discover-our-parks/elora-cataract-trailway/ (website email form)

Reminder: CVC-owned sections of the Elora Cataract Trailway are closed during the construction of the Erin Wastewater System Project until approximately June 2025. For more information and updates go to www.cvc.ca/park-advisories/ and www.erinwastewater.ca

ECTA memberships, updates and volunteer needs

VOLUNTEER



We are looking for a newsletter editor for two newsletters a year. If interested in volunteering, please email info@trailway.org.



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e-NEWSLETTER

If you want to receive the newsletter by email instead of a printed version, you can sign up online to receive our e-newsletter. Enter into your favourite browser

www.trailway.org/enews-signup



www.trailway.org

Elora Cataract Trailway Association Membership Application Form

Renewal New Membership

No. in your household _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Pr: ___ Postal Code: _____ email: _____

\$25—1 Year \$100—5 Years

Please make cheque payable to “Elora Cataract Trailway Association” and mail to: P.O. Box 2931, Elora, ON N0B 1S0

01-23

When does my membership expire?

If you look at your envelope (or email), above the address field and to the right, you will see “Membership Expiry:” following by a year. For example if you see **Membership Expiry: 2023**, this means your membership expired 12/31/2023 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.



“Thank You!”

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Please consider **Sentex** when looking for an ISP.

www.sentex.net

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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www.trailway.org