



ELORA CATARACT
TRAILWAY
ASSOCIATION

Spring 2025 Newsletter

In This Issue

- From the Chair - Connections
- Discover Hillsburgh, Ontario
- Hillsburg(h) Heritage Walking Trail
- A Tale of Two Trails
- April 6 AGM
- Reporting Trailway Issues
- Locations of GRCA Gates
- Goderich to Guelph Rail Trail
- Neighbourwoods Community Trees Planting Events
- ECTA Memberships
- Donations



THE ELORA - CATARACT TRAILWAY - ONTARIO

Connections

Although Fall is my favourite season, this winter proved equally enjoyable; its deep snow and lingering cold reminded me of the winters of my youth.

The appeal of our trailway remains year-round, a quiet place to walk, enjoy the natural surroundings, reflect, and think. It is one of the places I retreat when I need space and time to myself or a special place to walk with someone far from the maddening crowd. Following the footprints in the snow, I am not the only one enjoying this serene path. At this time of year, the silence is golden due to the absence of summer's din, as many people hide inside.

As our feathered friends return from southern climes, a new landscape will unfold with spring's onset, bringing new colours and a cacophony of noise. The furtive movements of chipmunks and groundhogs emerging from their winter hibernation catch the corners of my eyes. One hears geese and ducks vying for preferred waterfront nesting areas along the rivers, ponds and lakes.

To the communities along our route, we offer an escape to the peace and serenity of our linear natural corridor. Our natural landscape remains a bastion to encroaching urbanization and a sanctuary to myriad birds and other wildlife who linger on the periphery of our urban areas, watching us as we watch them.

Recently, I came across the term "extinction of experience" to define the progressive loss of human-nature interactions. It implies

humanity's loss from the gains associated with our intimate relationship with the land, wildlife and seasons and our increasing indifference to pro-biodiversity policies and management actions. Whereas nature seeks balance, humanity seeks control that results in the deteriorating health and well-being of humans and nature whose destinies are inextricably linked.

"A tree can be only as strong as the forest surrounding it." —Peter Wohlleben – [The Hidden Life of Trees](#). An interesting metaphor that perfectly describes the symbiotic relationship between humans and nature. We need each other to survive and thrive.

It is this sense of connection that forms our focus for our 2025-2026 year. Our trailway winds through a diverse landscape of historical communities and natural settings. Just as the former Credit Valley Railway and later the CPR connected our municipalities and regions, facilitating commerce and travel, our trailway offers a similar connection for recreational and leisure purposes.

Our focus going forward is promoting the destination experience of our trailway. Our approach aligns with our mandate to encourage community appreciation and participation along our 47 km natural corridor. It is our way to push back against the extinction of experience for current and future generations.

Hopefully, we will see you enjoying our shared experience on the trail.

Take care,
Ian

Cover photo Grand River in Elora courtesy of Ian MacRae



Trestle Bridge Trail photo courtesy of Ian MacRae

Discover Hillsburgh, Ontario

A Hidden Gem on the Elora Cataract Trailway

Nestled in the heart of Ontario, Hillsburgh is a charming destination for cyclists and hikers traversing the Elora Cataract Trailway. Known for its scenic beauty and welcoming community, Hillsburgh offers a variety of amenities and attractions for all visitors.

Places of Interest and Amenities

Hillsburgh boasts a rich history and vibrant community spirit. The town features several local shops and historical sites that provide a glimpse into its storied past. Key places of interest include the Century Church Theatre, The Exchange Hotel, and the Hillsburgh Public Library, offering insights into local culture and history.

Parks and Connecting Trails

Hillsburgh is surrounded by lush greenery and picturesque landscapes, making it an ideal stop for nature enthusiasts. Hillsburgh sits at the headwaters of the Credit River's West Branch, which is famed for its clear, cold water and trout fishing. The town's parks, such as Hillsburgh's Historical Park, the Wellington County Library and the Upper Mill Pond, provide serene spots for relaxation and picnics.

Places to Eat

Food lovers will find a limited selection of dining options in Hillsburgh. Fortunately, the popular Jess For You Cafe is located on the main street (Trafalgar Road), which is noted for its quality and service. There is also a Coffee Time at the Hillsburgh Esso Station.

Jess For You Cafe 109 Trafalgar Road, Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0 (519) 855-9999
Email: jessforyoucafe@hotmail.com, Website: <https://www.facebook.com/JessforyouCafehillsburgh/>

Coffee Time 25 Main Street, Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0 (519) 855-4225

Alternatively, nearby Erin offers many food experiences, from ice cream shops to family-owned restaurants to satisfy all tastes. Notable eateries include Maddie Hatter Tea Shop & Cafe, The Topsy Fox Pub and Grill, Tin Roof Cafe, Venice Pizza, Uncle Harry's Fish'n Chips, Tina's Homemade Cooking, Pizza Mama Mia, Quesada Burritos & Tacos, Subway, Tim Horton's, Coffee Time, Debora's Chocolates, Holtom's Bakery, Judy's Restaurant, Gianni's Pizza and Wings Restaurant, Pho Erin Viet-Thai Restaurant, Bailey's Ice Cream, Bistro DuPain, and the Busholme.

Public Amenities

Travellers will find public washrooms at the Wellington County's Hillsburgh branch library, adjacent to the trailway. Its hours of operation are Mondays and Fridays, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm; Saturdays, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and Sundays (June thru August), 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Check online for the latest updates to operating hours: <https://www.wellington.ca/en/library.aspx>.

Accommodations for Cyclists and Hikers

Hillsburgh is well-equipped to accommodate cyclists and hikers seeking a comfortable stay. Local bed and breakfasts, such as The Hillsburgh House by the Pond and The Tailwinds Bed and Breakfast, provide cozy lodging with personalized service. For those preferring a more rustic experience but modern comforts, August Tree Flower Farm and Heritage Hollow offer a chance to stay and experience life on a working farm and to immerse in nature.

With its natural beauty, cultural richness, and welcoming amenities, Hillsburgh is a must-visit destination for anyone journeying along the Elora Cataract Trailway. Whether stopping by for a meal, exploring the trails, or staying overnight, Hillsburgh promises a memorable and refreshing experience.

Hillsburgh House By the Pond 3 Station Street PO Box 580 Hillsburgh On N0B 1Z0 (519) 855-9487 Email: hhbtp@yahoo.ca Website: <http://bbcanada.com/hillsburghhousebythepond>

Tailwinds Bed & Breakfast 17 Station St Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0 (519) 855-3242 Email: info@tailwindsbb.ca Website: <http://www.tailwindsbb.ca/>

Heritage Hollow 5972 Second Line Erin, ON L0N 1N0 (519) 278-5413 Email: stay@heritagehollow.ca Website: <https://www.airbnb.ca/rooms/6870219>

August Tree Flower Farm 5881 3 Line Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0 Website: <https://augusttreefarm.com/farm-stays/> offers two airbnb accomodations: **The Flower Garden Farmhouse** <https://www.airbnb.ca/rooms/776975776738032755> **The Pear Tree Hilltop Cabin** <https://www.airbnb.ca/rooms/53364505>

History and Heritage

Hillsburgh is a small, tranquil village quickly walked or biked. You can explore its heritage and natural characteristics in less than an hour. The Town of Erin's Trails and Heritage Committees have created a self-guided tour of Hillsburgh's historic downtown and mill pond districts. Here is the link to download their trail brochure: <https://www.erin.ca/uploads/userfiles/files/Hillsburgh%20Heritage%20Walking%20Trail%20Aug%202012%202016.pdf>.

We've also added it on the following pages.

The village's two prominent mill ponds were created by millers, including the distillery firm Gooderham & Worts, which is affiliated with Toronto's distillery district. They built a large grist mill, a large pond, and, further upstream, a sawmill and cooperage to produce barrels for their Toronto distillery in 1851.

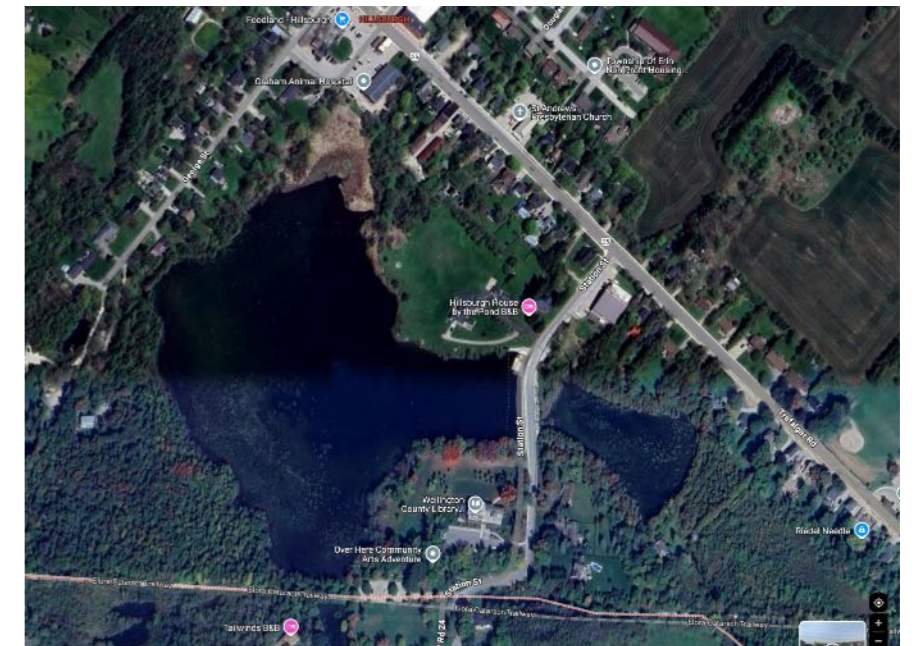


Photo courtesy of Google Maps

History and Heritage of Hillsburgh

Welcome to the historic downtown and mill pond districts of Hillsburgh.

This self-guided tour can be completed in just under one hour. It includes the natural beauty of the Elora Cataract Trailway – the last remnant of the Credit Valley Railway, which provided a valuable link to Toronto in 1879. The ponds were created by mill entrepreneurs such as the distillery firm of Gooderham & Worts, and now support an array of wildlife. See the intricate brickwork and creative window designs from the Victorian era, and learn about the mill industry that helped establish a thriving agricultural economy here in the 1800s. The tour is in two zones and the sites can be visited in any order. From the corner of Trafalgar Road and Station Street (where the Fire Hall and Century Church Theatre are located), follow either Station Street to the ponds, or Trafalgar Road to the downtown core.

The village is at the headwaters of the West Branch of the Credit River, known for its pure, cold water and trout fishing as it flows towards Lake Ontario. With significant lands in Ontario's Greenbelt, Hillsburgh is a village within the Town of Erin, preserving its natural heritage of forest, wetlands and prime agricultural land.

With a lively economy, a strong arts and sports culture, a high level of safety and a plan for moderate growth, the Town of Erin has been identified as one of the Top 100 Places to Live in Canada.

Please visit our shops and restaurants, get to know our friendly people and admire the small-town architecture that is being preserved for generations to come.

Find out more

This Walking Trail brochure is a joint project of the Town of Erin Trails and Heritage Committees.

The Trails Committee promotes a trails network for access to natural areas, transportation links and fitness benefits. The Heritage Committee promotes public awareness of the Town's heritage, maintains an inventory of properties of heritage value, and advises Town Council and property owners on conservation issues and heritage matters.

The committees offer their thanks to local property owners and businesses for their support of this Heritage Trail project. Special thanks to Wellington County Planning for technical production of this brochure.

Please feel free to visit:

Town of Erin: www.erin.ca (PDF copy available)

County of Wellington: www.wellington.ca

Greenbelt Foundation: www.greenbelt.ca/foundation

For information and a brochure about the Let's Get Hillsburgh Growing Committee, go to:

www.erin.ca/town-hall/hillsburgh-growing-committee



3. Library and Mill Pond



4. Train Station and Trailhead



7. Historic Nodwell Farmhouse



8. Hyndman House



9. St. Andrew's Church



10. Town Hall and date stone next door



14. East Commercial Block



17. Exchange Hotel



18. Church Street



18. Ann Street

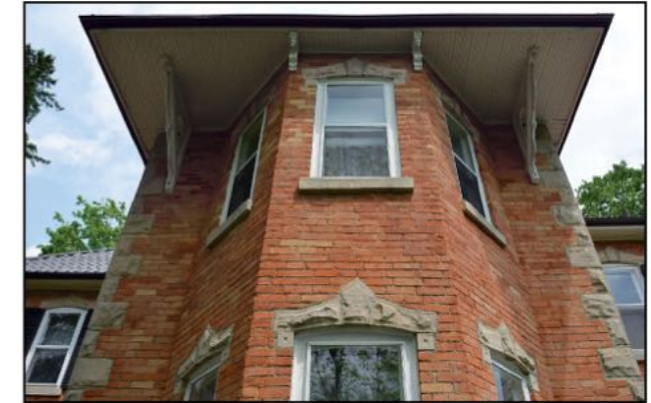


Baptist Church*



Former How General Store*

*Two additional Hillsburgh buildings, outside the range of this walking tour, are also worth a look. Well south of downtown is the Hillsburgh Baptist Church on the east side of Trafalgar. It has an 1888 date stone, plus an image of a chalice cup, both created with alternating red and yellow bricks. Across the road, a little to the south is the location of the village's first general store by village founder William How. This is the third How General Store built in the vicinity. It was first a log trading post, then a building that was destroyed in a gun powder explosion and the present building that stands today is the last version.



HILLSBURGH(H) HERITAGE WALKING TRAIL

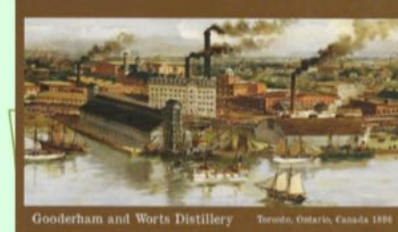


16



Hillsburg(h) Heritage Walking Trail

See Hillsburg(h)'s heritage and natural features on a tour that takes less than 1 hour.



Gooderham & Worts Distillery District Toronto

8. Hyndman House
Local carpenter Alexander Hyndman built this brick-veneered frame house for himself in 1879-1880, in the High Victorian Gothic style that was popular for Ontario country homes in the late 1800s. It was part of a subdivision planned by George Gooderham, whose family had invested in the new Credit Valley Railway line nearby. Other early owners were Dr. Joshua Hamilton and Elias Griner, the village stationmaster.

9. St. Andrews Church and Manse
Local Presbyterians formed a congregation in 1860 and built their church in 1869, named St. Andrew's in honor of their Scottish ancestry. There was still no fire department in the village in 1965 when the church was almost destroyed by flames. The organ was saved, but only the stone walls remained standing. The church has been fully restored, and the manse is now a private residence.

10. Town Hall and date stone next door
Attractive date stones appear on the old Town Hall and the house next door. Hillsburg was the original name of the village, with the "h" at the end coming into use some time after World War Two - the "h" date is still debated locally! The Town Hall date stone features maple leaves and a beaver. The building was home at various times to the Loyal Orange Lodge, the Public Library, the Hillsburgh Band and, from 1962 to 2009, Morette's Furniture.

11. St. John's Anglican Church
Unique window designs add elegance to this 1890s church, which had to close during the difficult years just around and after the end of World War I. It served for a time as a honey extracting plant, and was later converted with much work and dedication to a private residence.

12. Chevrolet dealership
The commercial building across from the arena was once much larger, housing up to six stores including a drug store and butcher shop. It is also known as one of Canada's earliest Chevrolet dealerships containing an indoor showroom.

13. The Hillsburgh Community Centre
Built right beside the West Credit, it once housed the Fire Department and had a tiny library building next door on the riverbank. It now boasts a banquet hall that can handle 225 people and an arena that has been adapted for sledge hockey.

14. East Side Commercial Block
Unlike the West Side Block, which was demolished to make way for a grocery store, the East Side preserves the character of the old downtown with a variety of brick styles, anchored by the Royal Bank, originally the Union Bank.

15. Butcher Furniture
Hillsburgh has a long history of furniture manufacturing and retailing. This store was established in 1959 by Dave and Betty Butcher. It has grown to 12,000 ft², with a second location opened in Orangeville in 2004. The stores are now owned by Marvin and Nancy McDougall.

16. Hillsburgh Historical Park
Once the site of a general store, the lot sat vacant for many years until the Town developed a small park with the assistance of the Hillsburgh & District Lions Club, the Hillsburgh Garden Club and other volunteers. It has benches for relaxing, beautiful gardens, historical artifacts and a stage for concerts and events. It is used for church services and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

17. Exchange Hotel
A local landmark built about 1883 by Bill Dwyer, in the prosperous years that followed the railway construction, the Exchange was classier than its Hillsburgh rival, the Grand Central Hotel. It had elements of Italianate and Second Empire design, with an archway leading to the livery stable. Above the arch was a "sample room" where travelling salesmen would set up displays. It once served as a headquarters for the well-to-do members of the Caledon Mountain Trout Club, and the parlour was a favourite meeting place of Erin Township Council. In 2012 it was refurbished with ground floor commercial and residential units above.

18. A walk along Church and Ann Streets
To the east of Trafalgar Road are a number of interesting homes from the Victorian era. The tree lined streets feature homes with decorative brick lintels over the windows, decorative corner treatments and ornate wood and metal trim.



- 1. Disciples Church (Century Church Theatre)**
The Christian Disciples Church was built in 1906, with 63 charter members from the Coringsby congregation. It has an impressive Gothic Revival bell tower. The Erin Arts Foundation now operates the building as Century Church Theatre, preserving the stained-glass windows and original curved elm pews and raked (sloped) floor.
- 2. Station Street Bridge, Dam and Gooderham & Worts**
There had been mills in Hillsburgh dating back to 1824, but in 1851 distillers Gooderham & Worts bought land along the river and built a large grist mill and pond, along with a saw mill up-river and a coopersage to produce barrels for their Toronto-based business today known as the historic "Distillery District". The road over the dam was built to connect the village with the train station on the west side of the pond when the Credit Valley Railway arrived in 1879. The current bridge was the first bridge built in 1917 by local stone mason Charles Smith.
- 3. Library and Mill Pond**
In 2015, Wellington County acquired the upper mill pond and the 1892 house at 9 Station Street as the site of the new Hillsburgh library. The library will incorporate the brick walls of the house, one of two built by the Awrey brothers, who bought the land from John Gooderham in 1890. The pond once had a pavilion, band shell and wharf. The Awreys built a stone mill with a cider press on the lower (smaller) Ainsworth pond.
- 4. Train Station and Trail Head**
A branch line of the Credit Valley Railway started at the village of Cataract and extended through Erin, Hillsburgh, Orton, Fergus and Elora. It enabled Hillsburgh area farmers to easily transport their potatoes and other crops to market, and brought in many visitors and cattle merchants. It was operated for many years by Canadian Pacific, but abandoned in 1988. The right-of-way was purchased by the Grand River and Credit Valley Conservation Authorities in 1993 and became the scenic Elora Cataract Trailway.
- 5. Upper Hillsburgh Mill Pond Lookout**
The upper Hillsburgh Mill Pond owners have included Gooderham & Worts, the exclusive Caledon Mountain Trout Club and the Guelph Fishing Club. It provides a spectacular view and a habitat for fish, birds, bats and turtles. The Town and County of Wellington are hoping that more hiking trails can be developed in the area.
- 6. "God's Acre" Pioneer Cemetery**
The first record of the cemetery that became known as God's Acre is from 1831, back when Hillsburgh was still known as Howville. Village founder William How was buried here in 1854, among other early settlers, but for many years the site was overgrown with weeds. In 1954, Dan Gray and Robert Nodwell led an effort to restore the headstones, embedding them in concrete. A Union Church also once was on this lot.
- 7. Historic Nodwell Farmhouse**
A pre-confederation 1864 farmhouse of architectural interest, set well to the east of Trafalgar Road across from the fire station, was home to generations of the Nodwell family, and a social hub for the entire village. A smaller late 1800's Nodwell house closer to the road also displays innovative window bricking from the Victorian era.



A TALE OF TWO TRAILS



Trestle Bridge stone pier

As many will know, the only stretch of the Elora Cataract Trailway (ECT) within its full 47 km length, where users share space with motor vehicles, is on the segment through Fergus.

Recently, however, Centre Wellington's staff and Council supported establishing a new and safer route through Fergus on quieter residential streets.

Based on community feedback and ECTA's 2024 trail user survey, and with the formal and enthusiastic support of our Trailway Association, the Township has applied for a federally funded active transportation grant to help offset the projected total costs.

As part of the completed project, a new 'controlled crossing' at Beatty Line and Frederick Campbell St. will increase safety at that point and serve as a hub to more seamlessly connect the ECT to the Trestle Bridge Trail (TBT).

Indeed, trail users frequently use the much shorter TBT (about 4 km in length) as an alternate route connecting Fergus to Elora via a bridge crossing to the south shore of the Grand River. In effect, it facilitates the creation of a loop between these two communities.

The TBT's main drawing card is the trestle, which spans the Grand River. This bridge is the third built at the site, completed in 1909. Today's structure incorporates the very visible 1869 stone piers constructed for the original bridge. The Grand Trunk railroad, of which today's TBT was a small part, realized by 1909 a more robust bridge was needed.



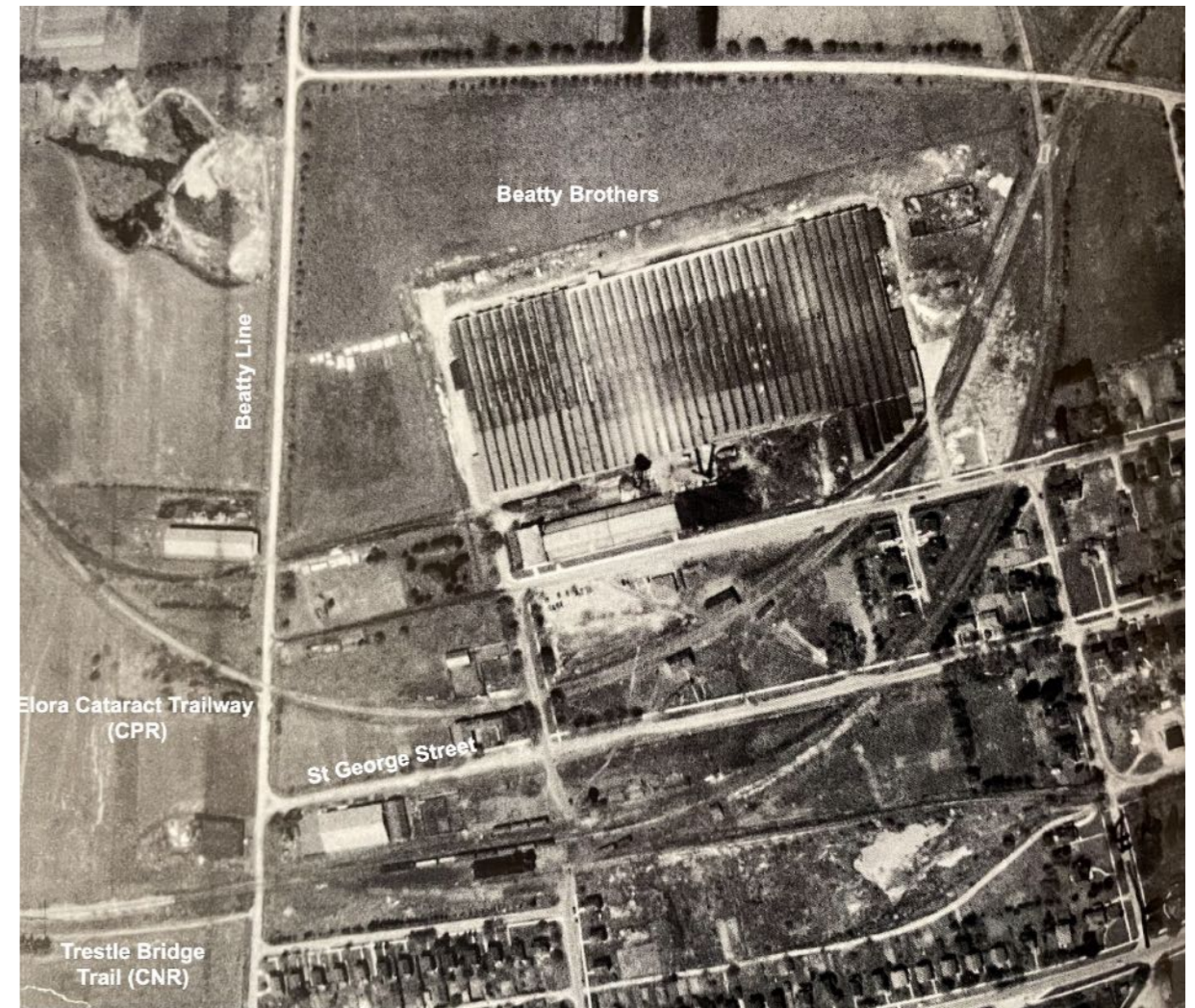
Wellington County Museum from Trestle Bridge

Photos courtesy of Rick Goodfellow

Much like the newly created CNR acquired the Grand Trunk Railway in the early 20th century, the Credit Valley Railway (the original right of way for the ECT) ultimately became a branch line of the CPR. Today, the Credit Valley Conservation and the Grand River Conservation Authority jointly own the ECT, and the County of Wellington and Township of Centre Wellington share ownership of the TBT.

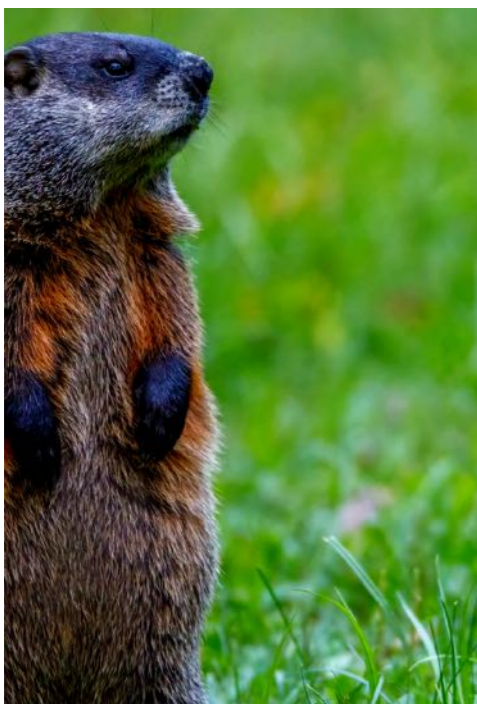
As a result, having both rights of way in public ownership is priceless, and all users, whether residents of Centre Wellington or not, can enjoy this connection between these two trailways.

Rick Goodfellow



1948 photo courtesy of Wellington County Museum and Archives ph18534

APRIL 6 AGM



When the groundhog seeks its shadow, it indicates our AGM is approaching.

This year's AGM will be held on April 6th at the Victoria Park Senior's Centre in Fergus at 2:00 PM. Hopefully, the snow will be gone, the sun will shine, and the early flowers will bloom.

We are thrilled to announce that this year's guest speaker will be Nicola Ross, the well-known author of the Loops and Lattes guides. If you are unfamiliar with her work, we strongly recommend that you hunt for her handy and instructive books.

Key highlights of the agenda include:

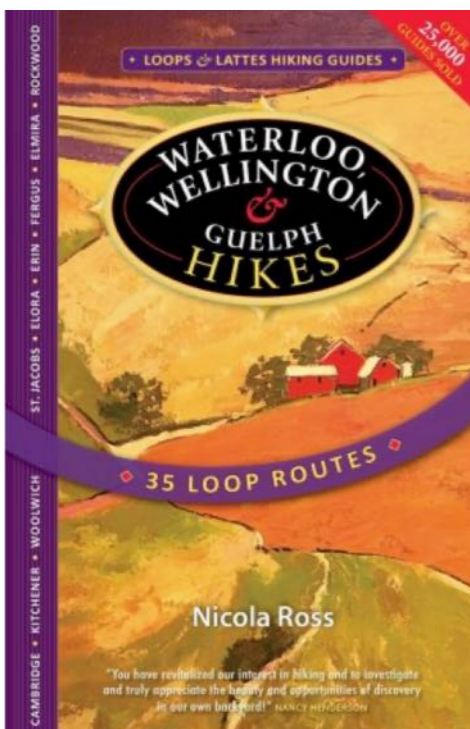
Reviewing and approving articles of amendment and Bylaw #2 to ensure compliance with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.

Paying tribute to the late Jim Gibbons, Fergus' former Reeve, who actively pushed the Trailway's development.

Recognizing the accomplishments of our current board member and Trailway founder, Tom Skimson and board member Andrew Kobus, who retire this year.

Reviewing the board's activities and future projects.

Hopefully, we'll see you there.



REPORTING TRAILWAY ISSUES



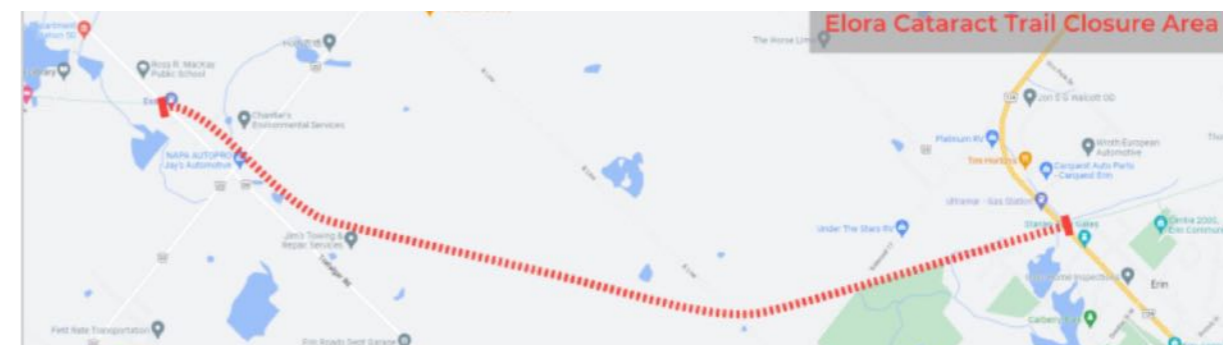
The Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) are dedicated to keeping the Elora Cataract Trailway safe and secure for all users.

You may help in this process as members of the Elora Cataract Trailway Association by reporting any safety concerns you encounter, such as a fallen tree, a stretch of washed out trail, etc.

Gather the following information and send it to info@trailway.org. Your observation will be registered and forwarded to the appropriate conservation authority.

1. What? Describe the issue.
2. Location? (for example, between KM marker x and y, between gates x and y (every GRCA gate is numbered) or approximate distance and direction from nearest road. See GRCA map showing gate locations.

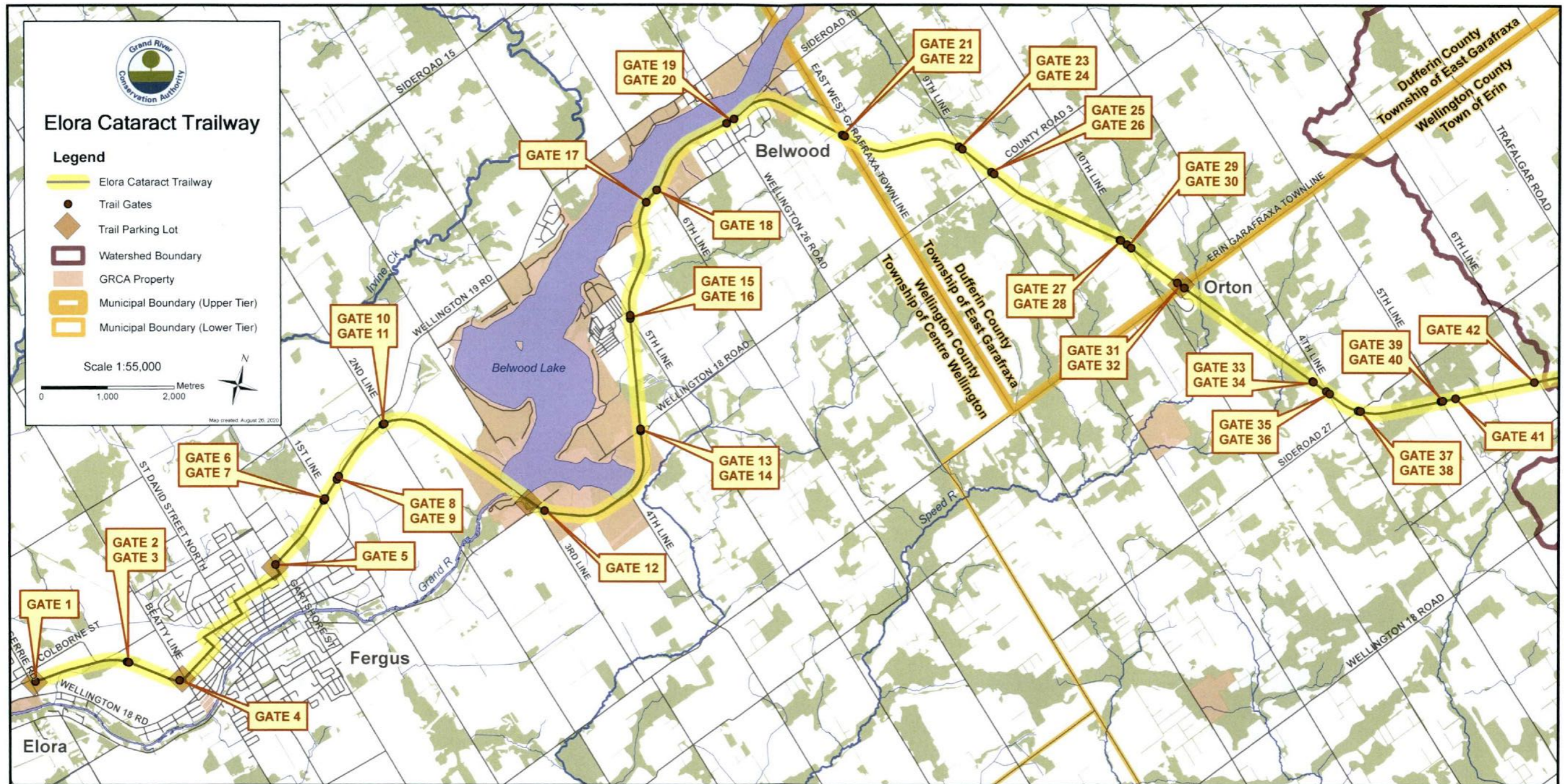
Reminder: The CVC-owned section of the Elora Cataract Trailway between Trafalgar Road in Hillsburgh and Main Street in Erin is closed until June 2026 due to the Erin Wastewater System project. More information and up-dates can be found at www.cvc.ca/park-advisories/ and www.erinwastewater.ca.



Courtesy of WSP Elora Cataract Trail Gravity Sewer <https://erinwastewater.ca/elora-cataract-gravity-sewer/>

GRCA service disruptions are listed at <https://www.grandriver.ca/who-we-are/service-disruptions/>.

Locations of GRCA Gates



Map courtesy of the Grand River Conservation Authority.

Note: Credit Valley Conservation gates are not numbered. CVC uses the nearest road for reference purposes.



Photo from <https://www.g2grailtrail.com>

GODERICH TO GUELPH RAIL TRAIL

Story

The Goderich to Guelph Rail Trail, or G2G, is a 132 km train right of way abandoned in 1988 and under re-development as a highly accessible public recreational trail for non-motorized use – walking, hiking, birding, running, wheeling, cycling, snowshoeing and skiing.

The Province of Ontario owns the right of way, retains it as an infrastructure corridor and leases sections to municipal and other organizations with public recreation as their priority. The G2G Rail Trail Advisory Committee has been granted leases on all previously unleased gaps in the trail to establish, maintain and develop the trail to be contiguous from end to end.

Further development of the G2G as a recreational and tourism destination will entail significant fundraising and public engagement for bridge repairs and enhancements, trail furnishings and signage, user information and services, marketing and local business development.

Background

The original rail line was built by the Guelph & Goderich Railway and completed in 1907 to link the port at Goderich and a string of rural communities to Guelph and markets beyond. The business and towns along its route prospered for decades but freight and passenger traffic dwindled with the automotive era. In 1988, Canadian Pacific Railway received permission to decommission the line. Over the next decade, public access was piecemeal, some sections were rehabilitated by local volunteers, some became overgrown and gated off, and the bridges closed or removed.

Ten years later, the County of Wellington and Regional Municipality of Waterloo leased 45 km of the trail, from the outskirts of Guelph to the village of Millbank, to create the Kissing Bridge Trailway, named for the historic covered bridge at West Montrose. Other local

municipalities and volunteer groups also rallied to recondition and open sections of the trail, as the Goderich to Auburn Rail Trail and Blyth Greenway Trail at the far west end.

In 2013, G2G Rail Trail Inc. was formed to spearhead efforts for completion and to encourage public engagement with the recreational, tourism and economic potentials of the trail. The fundraising goal for completion of the trail, including replacement of the three bridges over the Grand, Conestoga and Maitland Rivers is over \$10 million. The G2G Rail Trail is a non-profit charity registered with CRA.

The Trail

The G2G starts from downtown Guelph and passes through scenic countryside, rich farmland, sheltered woodland, along and over streams, rivers and wetlands, past 13 villages and towns, and ends at Lake Huron at the mouth of the Maitland River and the Port of Goderich. The rail trail cuts across the countryside, highways and roads, so entry points are accessible and numerous along its 132 km length – users on foot or wheels can be immersed in natural surroundings in literally a couple of minutes.

The trail is straight and flat with a maximum 3° incline, making it ideal for all levels of skill, fitness and accessibility. The surface for the entire trail is now a groomed and compacted stone dust. The trail was officially completed in 2021 with the completion of the Project RED (Rehabilitation, Enhancement, and Development). There are eight significant bridges that offer scenic panoramas, and only three of them are incomplete and in need of replacement (over the Maitland, Conestoga and Grand Rivers) – this will be a major expense in completing the trail.

Impact and Legacy

Like the original train service that opened the historic Huron Tract to settlement, economic development and continental markets, the G2G reveals a swath of southwestern Ontario's scenic countryside to the world. The G2G combines the benefits of outdoor recreation and tourism into an inclusive and accessible experience – a portal ushering urban visitors into pastoral beauty, rural heritage, and healthy physical activity. For national vacationers and international tourists, the G2G will satisfy the desire to experience 'the real Ontario' or 'the real Canada'. Business development for support services and amenities along the route will bolster the economic viability of small rural communities. In terms of regional impact, the rail trail demonstrates environmental and sustainable repurposing of Ontario's infrastructure and economic assets. The G2G's proximity to major population centres and transportation nodes makes it a satisfying and memorable rural experience for millions of regional, national and international visitors.

The article was written and provided by G2G.

This article is the first in a series highlighting a neighbouring trail. Trails are about connections.

Neighbourhoods Community Tree Planting Events

Call for volunteers

Why plant? "Help expand our urban forest, boost biodiversity, and support a healthier, happier community."

To volunteer and receive details and updates please email Richard Smythe at NWprojects@eloraenvironmentcentre.ca

This project is generously supported in part by:

Currently there are no tree planting events along the Elora Cataract Trailway. Instead, we encourage you to assist Neighbourhoods with their upcoming tree planting programs. There is no better legacy to leave to the next generation than a healthy, well established tree.

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 26, 2025**
- Earth Day Weekend (Rain or Shine)

🕒 9:00am- 12:00pm

📍 Trestle Bridge Trail,
Trailhead at 187 Beatty
Line N, Fergus

📍 Parking lot of St Andrew
West Mall, 725 St Andrew
St W, Fergus


**SATURDAY,
MAY 10, 2025**
- Mother's Day Weekend (Rain or Shine)

🕒 9:00am- 12:00pm

📍 Green space west of
Gzowski St between Forfar
St E and Garafraxa St E,
Fergus

📍 Roadside parking along
Gzowski St between Forfar
St E and Garafraxa St E

ECTA MEMBERSHIPS

	Elora Cataract Trailway Association Membership Application Form	
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership	No. in your household _____
Name: _____		Telephone: _____
Address: _____		City: _____
Pr: _____ Postal Code: _____		email: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25—1 Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100—5 Years	
Please make a cheque payable to "Elora Cataract Trailway Association" and mail to: P.O. Box 2931, Elora, ON, N0B 1S0 or send an e-transfer to payment@trailway.org .		

If Paying By Cheque

Our bank is refusing cheques that do not include the Association's complete name. Please ensure you make the cheque out to: Elora Cataract Trailway Association.

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:" followed by a year. For example: Membership Expiry: 2023 indicates your membership expires 12/31/2023.

Please Renew Your Membership

Renewing your membership indicates your support for the Association's ongoing advocacy and work to maintain the trailway and to provide much needed revenue for projects such as widening the trailway and replacing worn signage. Please consider renewing your membership for \$25 a year or \$100 for five years.



We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter as much as we enjoyed creating it. We have stopped producing printed versions in favour of providing more images and material. Our newsletter will be available on our website, where you may discover both current and prior versions. If you sign up for our newsletter, we will send you a link and a notification when our latest newsletter is posted.

If you are interested in receiving our e-newsletter, please register at www.trailway.org/enews-signup. You can also access our newsletter at www.trailway.org/newsletters.

DONATIONS

The Elora Cataract Trailway Association serves as the eyes and ears of our two conservation authority partners, Credit Valley Conservation and Grand River Conservation Authority. We track trail activity and usage, perform trail user surveys, and lobby for operational, maintenance, and capital upgrades from our two partners. We also interact with the municipalities through which the trailway traverses. An example is current discussions with Centre Wellington Township to establish a new route through Fergus, connecting the east and west sections of the Trailway.



Photo by Adriano Gadini, Pixabay

We fundraise for trailway capital improvements (e.g., trail re-widening and full restoration), projects (e.g., signs, new kiosk map boards, and heritage photos), and safety incentives (e.g., bike bell giveaways to encourage cyclists to notify their passing on the trailway).

Last fall, for \$10,500, we reclaimed another 5.3 km length of trailway surface from encroaching vegetation.

Given our non-charity status as a non-profit, we direct all donations to the Credit Valley Conservation Foundation (CVCF) or the Grand River Conservation Foundation (GRCF), depending on the fundraising endeavour. All donations designated for the Elora Cataract Trailway (ECT) benefit the trailway's improvements and major initiatives. Both foundations will issue tax receipts.

To give, please make a cheque payable to one of the foundations above and mail it to Elora Cataract Trailway Association, P.O. Box 2931, Elora, ON N0B 1S0.

You can also donate online by going to <https://cvcfoundation.ca/donate> or <https://www.grandriver.ca/who-we-are/grcf/make-a-donation/>. If you choose CVCF, please pick Area of Greatest Need and write Support for the Elora Cataract Trailway in the Special Notes box. If you decide on GRCF, please select Other from the dropdown box under Fund (please specify in the comments section) and write Support for the Elora Cataract Trailway in the Write a private message to us box.

Please consider donating today to support this priceless treasure.



www.trailway.org

