



## IN SHORT:

- Fergus has a new Trailway sign.
- Creating a “Communitrees” site
- The new website is up and running with more to come.
- Several new volunteers step up with new projects.
- Saying farewell to Steve Revell, past board member and dear friend to many.

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## From the Chair

Being a part of an all-volunteer organization can be very rewarding. As you enjoy this newsletter, you’ll read about many volunteers that have recently become involved with the Trailway in one way or another. Each has followed a passion and filled a need for the Trailway. We have a volunteer we call “The Gerrie Road Gardener” who takes care of both the Gerrie Road and Beatty Line trailheads. He’s done a wonderful job of improving those two trailheads.

We’ve had several good articles written about the Trailway this year and great support from The Grand 92.9. There was one issue raised about the difficulty of finding the route through Fergus. The Board has recognized this issue and has a solution worked out which involves a simplified route through town and better signage. We are waiting to have the new section added to the trail before we go to the expense of putting up signs and rerouting the trail. We hope this will be completed soon.

Our AGM last March was one of the most successful in years. We had a great speaker in David Lamble. We also had to extend the business part of the meeting because we

had so much participation from our members in attendance. That does not happen very often at AGMs. Several new projects came out of that meeting which you’ll read about in this newsletter and future newsletter. Mark your calendar for our next AGM on Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

In closing, I’d like to ask for your continued support of the Association and become a volunteer if you are so inclined.

Happy Trails, J Raymond Soucy



**Mark Your Calendar Now**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday March 23, 2014**  
**@ 2:00 p.m.**

Speaker and location will be announced in the next newsletter and on our website.

## New Tourism Signage in Fergus

Thanks to the Township of Centre Wellington for making the Trailway easier to find when entering Fergus from County Road 18.



New flower bed and path at Beatty Line Trailhead parking lot



# TRAIL NUGGETS

## Creating 'Communitrees'

As members we know the many reasons why we love our Elora Cataract Trailway. I hope this news gives you another reason to head out for your walk, hike or cycle. A volunteer, highly motivated group, called 'Communitrees' has formed and in the spring you may enjoy watching their 'work in progress' at Site #1 on the Trailway.

In May 2013 I approached Raymond Soucy and the Board of the Elora Cataract Trailway Association to present the concept, 'Communitrees'. It's a group formed of volunteers from our community committed to planting and caring for 'communities' of native trees and shrubs and eventually native flowers to create small, beautiful ecosystems on our Trailway and other sites. The Board was enthusiastic about the concept and gave unanimous support for work by the volunteer group on Site #1. One Board member, Tom Skimson saw many benefits to the plan and volunteered at that meeting to be a member of this first group.

The Grand River Conservation Authority owns this section of The Elora Cataract Trailway. It was critical to have their support. I talked with and then met Derek Strub, the GRCA superintendent for the Trailway, Belwood Lake and Elora Quarry. On seeing the site and hearing of the concept, he also was enthusiastic and suggested a good second site that he hoped could also be restored by 'Communitrees'.

Next we needed more volunteers to create this first group of 'Communitrees'. Two 'arborist' friends, Serena and Phil Guenter who are passionate about trees were excited about the project and pleased that their knowledge could be used in such a positive way. Serena has been a strong 'hands-on' member of the group and a great resource in planning the plantings. Knowing that we will be losing our groves of ash trees along the trail over the next 3 - 10 years, she has helped us plan to use them as 'nurse trees' to help shelter future hardwoods.

The strong support and encouragement given and knowledge shared with me by Toni Ellis, of Neighbour-Woods on the Grand was invaluable.

Now a first community of people in our area has gathered to create and care for a community of native trees and shrubs, which also belong here. In nature, certain species of native trees, native shrubs and plants are found

together. For example red oak is not found in pure stands, but instead often lives amongst sugar maples, basswood, black cherry and shagbark hickory trees. 'Communitrees' groups intend to use the best science and forestry practices to help create small ecosystems of diverse species of native trees, shrubs and plants which belong together on that site. So, our volunteer community is helping build a community of trees.

Late this fall (2013) the work started. During two work 'parties' the group has started the process. Beautiful (mostly 6' tall) native trees were purchased from Bob Baker Forestry. Twelve trees at Site #1 were planted, mulched and now with tree guards in place are ready for the winter. The next step in the spring is to plant a further 30 trees and shrubs at the site. With more volunteers, work on Site #2 could be started. We need you. If you are considering volunteering with 'Communitrees', please contact me at (519) 843-3030.

When you head out for your walk or cycle in future months, consider pausing on the Trailway just east of the first line in Fergus. Beyond enjoying that wonderful 'smell of spring', you can take some pleasure in pointing out to your children or friends the plantings and signage that speak of future dappled shady groves and song birds on our Trailway.



Carolyn Crozier, Trailway member



Carolyn Crozier at Site #1

## Newsletter Editor Needed

One position we haven't filled yet is a newsletter Editor. Our goal is to publish two newsletters a year. It would be best to attend the six board meetings a year to help gain an understanding of what to put into the newsletter.

If you're interested please contact any one of our board members or call me (Raymond Soucy) at 519-843-7703. You can also email us at [info@trailway.org](mailto:info@trailway.org).



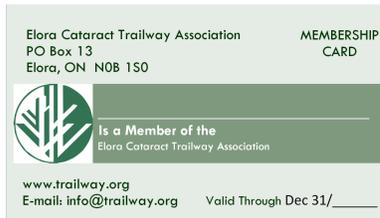
## Congratulations to Our Winners

Congratulations to Barb DeRoo and Kathleen Stanley for each winning a lovely ECTA T-Shirt. Both entered their Township of Centre Wellington's Culture Days passports into the draw. Two passports were randomly picked at the end of the event.



## New Membership Cards in 2014

We have often been asked for membership cards. We will be bringing them back in 2014.



## Is a Guelph to Elora Trail Coming Soon?

We sure hope so. Recent announcements from the Ontario Provincial Government and The Trans Canada Trail will hopefully spur on development. If it does, volunteers will be needed. Get your shovels ready.

## 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 five year membership for \$100.



[www.trailway.org](http://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 Final Farewell to Steve Revell

Steve was a board member for many years. He was our “Erin/Hillsburgh” ambassador. Steve was a positive influence on the Board with his many suggestions and projects he undertook.

Several Board members attended his memorial program on October 27<sup>th</sup> in Erin. In attendance were past students, their parents, and his teaching colleagues. Also numbered in his many friends were teammates, sports enthusiasts, history buffs, environmentalists, trail builders and hikers, EWCS volunteers, music lovers, old car aficionados, rail fans, and model railroaders. Steve enjoyed life to the fullest. Donations in Steve’s memory were received by the Elora Cataract Trailway Association, The Wellington County Historical Society, the Upper Credit Humane Society, Hospice Wellington, and local libraries.

Steve will be missed by many. He will be remembered by all the lasting contributions he made.

### Our New Website

After our AGM last year we had a wonderful offer from Kate Guy of Digital Chaos in Elora to redo our website using WordPress. The new site is now up and running. It will allow us to add many new features in the future. For example we’ll add several photo galleries for trail users to both participate in and see what others are doing.



DIGITAL CHAOS INC

www.digitalchaos.ca

Our next task is to update all the content and again, we had a volunteer step up and offer to help out. Melanie Gardiner, owner of Magnesium Studio, is performing a complete review on the content and user experience.

Keep checking the website as we’ll be updating on a regular basis.



### Are we there yet?

How many times have you wanted to know how far it is between different points on the trail? Thanks to the work of Tom Skimson, you can now look it up on our website using the new distance table found under “Using the Trail”.



*“Thank you!”*

to **Sentex** for providing ECTA with Free Web Hosting.

Please consider **Sentex** when looking for an ISP.  
www.sentex.net

### 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: 20138, 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.

**Check out our website for trail user surveys at [www.trailway.org](http://www.trailway.org).**

**Wanted—Newsletter Editor**