



ELORA CATARACT
TRAILWAY
ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

From the Chair

Let me start off by inviting everyone to the upcoming AGM on Sunday March 20th. Come out and enjoy the company of many likeminded trail loving people. We will be unveiling a new initiative called “The Founders Project”.

Improving Trailway signage and tackling invasive species have been on our “to do” list for several years. In the past year, we’ve made great progress on the former and not so much on the latter. This past year we successfully improved signs to direct trail users through Fergus from Beatty Line to Gartshore St. A big thank you goes out to Centre Wellington Hydro and the GRCA for helping to get this project completed. Additionally, we purchased and installed \$4,500 worth of signs to make the trail much easier to identify, improve safety with location signs and provide more information for trail users.

As I mentioned above, we’ve wanted to tackle several invasive species for some time now. In the past several years we’ve seen the proliferation of garlic mustard, wild grape vine, buckthorn and wild cucumber. Our biggest hurdle on this front has been leadership. We’ve had several

volunteers willing to do the work but lack someone(s) with the knowledge and energy to lead this project(s). We’ve decided to put the cart before the horse by purchasing an “Extractigator”. This device helps with the removal of buckthorn. We’ll have the Extractigator at the AGM for you to look at and perhaps get inspired to lead.

Last spring we had an opportunity to get involved in the Belwood Lake Osprey Webcam Project by donating \$1,000 towards the purchase of the equipment. This has turned out to be a great investment as the project took on a life of its own. Come to the AGM on March 20th to hear more about this project from GRCA ecologist Robert Messier who has been integral to the overwhelming success of this project.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Annual General Meeting

Sunday March 20th 2016
@ 2p.m.

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

Special Guest Speaker is Robert
Messier, GRCA Ecologist
Talking about the Belwood Lake
Osprey Webcam Project

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Urban Racks Urban Bike Repair Stand

Through the generous donation from Dave and Colleen Brown (Elmira) a Bike Repair Stand has been purchased. It will be installed this spring on the Elora Cataract Trailway trailhead at Gerrie Road. The Urban Repair Stand comes with ten attached tools for basic maintenance and flat repair.

UPCOMING EVENTS WITH THE ECTA WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

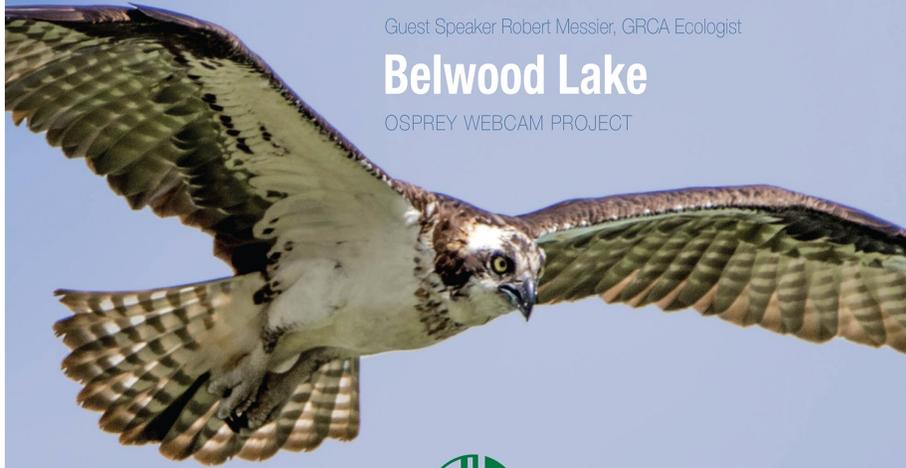
Annual General Meeting

ELORA CATARACT TRAILWAY ASSOCIATION

Guest Speaker Robert Messier, GRCA Ecologist

Belwood Lake

OSPREY WEBCAM PROJECT



ELORA CATARACT
TRAILWAY
ASSOCIATION

March 20, 2016 at 2PM



Support the ECTA!

Get your own trailway shirt at the AGM!



Photo credits: Grand River Conservation Authority, and Burma Wilton.



**Free and open
to everyone!**

Location: Victoria Park Seniors Centre
Address: 150 Albert St W, Fergus, ON N1M 1X2
Time: Meeting starts at 2PM
More information: email info@trailway.org
Call Raymond Soucy 519-843-7703
Visit trailway.org

Spring into Action

Join us for the 2016 Food Cycle Ride

Sunday May 29th at the
Elora Public School



Join the 6th Annual Food Cycle Ride in support of the Centre Wellington Food Bank. Our Trailway plays a central role in this important event that has raised over \$51,000 for the Food Bank since 2011.

Come as a family, join a team, or ride as an individual and enjoy the beauty of the trail, turning at the Shand Dam or County Road 26, Belwood for a 20 or 40 km excursion. Live music, great food, awesome awards and good conversation follow.



Mark your calendar NOW!

www.foodcycleride.ca

Register on-line and Save \$10.

YOU RIDE Because YOU CARE!

In support of the Center Wellington Food Bank

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

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO:

Grand Afternoon at the Wellington County Museum

- We participated in this event and connected with many people talking about the trails in the area. We featured a display about the trailway.

Doors Open (Trails Open)

- We once again participated in this event by leading a hike as well as setting up a display on the trail. The table top display was set up at the Beatty Line parking lot from 10-4pm and we were able to talk with many users of the trail including many out of town guests.
- A 4.25 km loop trail map was created for participants. It starts and ends at the Beatty Line parking lot. This map can be downloaded on our website.

Vital Signs Report—Centre Wellington Community Foundation Request

- The ECTA was one of the 19 groups who participated in the Stakeholders Consultation sessions. Further details as well as the final report can be found at: www.cwcfoundation.ca

Elora Library's Carnegie Café

- On August 27th a presentation was given on the many local trails that Centre Wellington has to offer as well as highlighting the Elora Cataract Trailway and some its history.

New Cottontail Road Trail Completed

The trail was completed in the Summer of 2015. It was built by Wellington County partly using funds from the PANAM Games legacy fund. An official opening will take place in 2016. To view a map of the trail visit:

<http://www.wellington.ca/en/discover/Cottontail-Road-Trail.asp>

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: 2015**, this means your membership expired 12/31/2015 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

SIGNAGE UPDATES

With the generous help of Centre Wellington Hydro, the GRCA added 41 new signs from the Beatty Line to Gartshore Street. We are still hoping to add better directions at each trailhead.

Other signs added include:

42—Large Elora Cataract Trailway signs installed on gates.

39—12”x18” Where am I?/ How far to signs? There were installed on the trail side of each gate to help users understand where they are.



We Bought An Extractigator

As a part of our drive to remove invasive species the ECTA has decided to purchased an Extractigator. This is an easy to use tool that was demonstrated to the Association during the Communitree’s Green Legacy planting day in November.

Curious about the tool? We are looking for a volunteer to head up clearing the trailway!

Communitree’s Update

Community volunteers with the local group, Communitrees gathered at the Elora Cataract Trailway near Fergus on November 1st. On this mild, overcast Sunday morning each person arrived with a purpose. Each of these 18 participants was eager to work together to plant 42 more native trees onto this section of the trail – and to see an Extractigator at work.

For future volunteer opportunities contact:

Carolyn Crozier at ccrozier@wightman.ca



“Thank You!”

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

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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Follow us on
twitter

Newsletter Editor: Courtney Ecclestone