



From the Chair

J. Raymond Soucy

It's been another great year for the Trailway association. As you'll read in the following pages, many of our projects have progressed well this year. We are an all volunteer organization so I'd like to start this newsletter by thanking all the volunteers who helped out this year. Look how much you have helped accomplish!

Our expanded Hike the Trail series 2010 series was a hit. We had good participation from both locals and many folks from out of town. Trails are an important tourism asset and it's great to see out-of-town people coming to our hikes. Planning for next year's Hikes has already started. If you participated in any hike(s) and haven't given us your feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Send your feedback via email to info@trailway.org or call me 519-843-7703.

Membership is a very important part of a group like ours.



Planting trees donated
by Graham Giddy Funeral Homes

Thank you to those of you who have been supporting us with your annual membership. Your membership dues provide revenue to pay for our various projects and to pay for insurance which is a major expense for many volunteer organizations. What you may not realize is membership numbers also show support for the Trailway from those in the community. Last note on memberships is they make a great Christmas gift. We hope you'll add them to your holiday shopping list.

The 2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be in late March or Early April. Would you like us to send you an email reminder once the date is finalized? If so, send an email to info@trailway.org with AGM reminder in the subject.

In closing, I'd like to give a huge thank you to Scott and Graham Giddy from Giddy Funeral Homes. As you'll read, they have made a significant financial contribution (\$2,000) to the Trailway. Their donation helps commemorate the families they've serviced in 2010 and at the same time is a big financial help to the Trailway. A real win-win situation for all concerned. I'm a big believer in supporting local businesses and this is yet another example of local businesses helping location organizations. Thank you Giddy Funeral Homes!

See you on the trail, Raymond

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Hike the Trail Series 2010

We are fast approaching our last hike of the season, the "Jingle Bell Hike". It will be the eighth hike in our 'Hike the Trail' series. Each hike has its own theme as you can see on the poster (p.8). Below is an overview of several of the hikes.

In spite of rain, clouds and wind, our first two hikes were a success. For the May 2nd "Signs of Spring ... Birds and Buds" hike, Kim and Rick Brown shared their binoculars and extensive knowledge about birds in the area. We were able to spot 18 different species of birds out for their morning activities along the Trailway. The list is included at the end of this article.

The theme for our June 6th hike was "Lilacs and Blossoms". Toni Ellis, Wayne and Joan Prowse and Peter Skoggard shared their knowledge of plants, shrubs and trees between Gerrie Road and the Beatty Line. Yes, it was cold and wet, but we had such a good time socializing and learning. Peter was there because his wife Deborah had selected the Trailway walk as the first of 3 surprise activities in Elora to share with him. We were so thankful to have both along.

We were also able to accommodate those participants who wanted just a good fast walk. Donna Ross, with her long legs and her Nordic walking poles, was able to set a wicked pace for those keen on a morning workout.

Our third Hike in the series was a 9PM evening hike on Sunday July 11th. The theme was "Flight of the Fireflies". Our hope was to attract individuals and families to this unusual hike and we were not disappointed. It was the best attended hike so far with 51 people coming out. The hike started with a very informative short talk by Gail Brown about fireflies. Who knew there were so many interesting facts to learn about fireflies.

Our fifth Hike was themed "Apples and Berries". We were very fortunate to have along with us expert Garden Designer, avid gardener and radio personality Daisy Moore from Gardens by Daisy Moore. Daisy has a great interest in naturalized gardening and is very knowledgeable on native plants. We had some very interesting discussions regarding native plants and what grows along the trailway. If you're interested in learning more about these topics, see Daisy's website at

www.daisymoore.com.

On each hike, there is a draw for a small prize. The ballot you fill out made you eligible for the big draw to be held on the last hike of the year on December 5th. If you joined us for all of the 8 hikes, you would have 8 ballots entered in the final draw. What a great way to get exercise and increase your chances of winning our grand prizes.

Finally, this is a way to meet new friends who share your interest in active living in the outdoors. Support the Trailway and the *In Motion* initiative. Come out and join the fun.



Birds seen on May 2nd hike

- American Crow
- Killdeer
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Baltimore Oriole
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- American Goldfinch
- Northern Cardinal
- Song Sparrow
- Eastern Phoebe
- Tree Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Bob-o-link
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Ring-billed Gull
- European Starling
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Thank you!

to our **Prize Sponsors** for this year:

- Salem Cyclery
- Grand River Running Inc.
- Santé
- Fraberts Fresh Foods
- Mapleton's Organics
- ECTA
- Wellington County *In Motion... Parks and Rec*

Raymond

Graham Giddy Funeral Homes Makes Generous Donation to the ECTA

We received a very generous donation of \$2,000 from Graham Giddy Funeral Homes and are very pleased to be partners in their initiative of giving back to the community. We planted 150 container grown trees between 3'-7' tall - cedar, tamarack, spruce, hemlock, yellow birch, sugar maple and red oak - along the Gerrie Rd to Beatty Line section of the Trailway. Three *Project B.O.O.T* benches will be installed in the spring. Please read Scott Giddy's description of their program below:

"In 2008, the Graham Giddy Funeral Homes were looking for a meaningful way to recognize the families we serve in the Centre Wellington area.

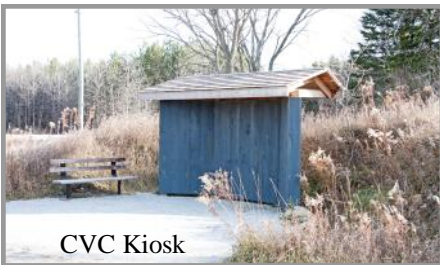
The staff at the funeral home felt one way we could achieve this would be the planting of trees in and around our local community. In 2009, the funeral home planted 150 trees on the property of the new Wellington Terrace. With the wonderful assistance of the ECTA, in 2010 we donated \$2000.00 towards the planting of trees and placement of 3 benches along the Elora Cataract Trailway. This Environmentally friendly initiative helped us gain acceptance as one of only three funeral homes in Ontario to be granted membership in the "Green Burial Council" of North America."



Signage Updated on the Trailway

This fall the GRCA invested over \$12,000 in new signs on the Trailway. The money came from a Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) grant made to the GRCA and the ECTA jointly. Improving signage was one of our objectives for this year so when the call came for our wish list, it was already to go. We've had good feedback on the Kilometre markers. People like to know where they are and how far they have gone/ need to go to the next stop. Improvements were also made to the gates along the Trailway.

During 2010, the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) has been busy upgrading and replacing trail-user safety and informational signage on the Elora Cataract Trailway. An inventory of all regulatory and warning signs on the Trailway between Cataract and Hillsburgh was completed and all signs requiring replacement were identified and will be upgraded soon. CVC hopes to continue the process in 2011. In addition, a new information kiosk has been installed at the Mississauga Road access point.



CVC Kiosk

ECTA will continue to improve signage. Specifically, we want to improve signs on streets to direct people to the various trailheads and we want to

improve directional signs in Fergus where the trail ends at Beatty Line and picks up again at Gartshore. This can be confusing.



Improved GRCA Signage



2010 AGM Recap

Every year our Annual General Meeting fulfills our obligation under our charter and is an opportunity to bring in a guest speaker to address a topic of interest to our membership. We try to make the "business" part of the meeting as painless as possible. This part of the meeting is important though as it provides information to the membership on how the association is run and what plans are being made for the future.

Andy Goldie, Director of Parks & Recreation for the Township of Centre Wellington (TCW), was our guest speaker. He provided some interesting insights into the value of trails (Connectivity, Economic, Education, Recreation, & Transportation), the development of the TCW official plan and potential for new trails in the future. Andy brings a lot of experience, having worked for the City of Guelph before coming to Township of Centre Wellington. He also brought along several maps showing the various trails in the area. Overall, a very interesting talk. Thank you Andy for taking the time on a Sunday to come and speak with us.



Andy Goldie at AGM

Our next AGM will be held in late March/early April 2011.

TRAILWAY User's Code

- Stay on the Trail surface
- Keep pets on leash, poop and scoop
- Stay on the right when approaching oncoming users
- Give right-of-way to the smallest and slowest user
- Follow the instructions provided on Trailway signs
- Do not climb fences or take shortcuts
- Respect the privacy of landowners along the Trailway
- Leave wildlife and plants for others to enjoy
- Enjoy the Trailway again and again and again



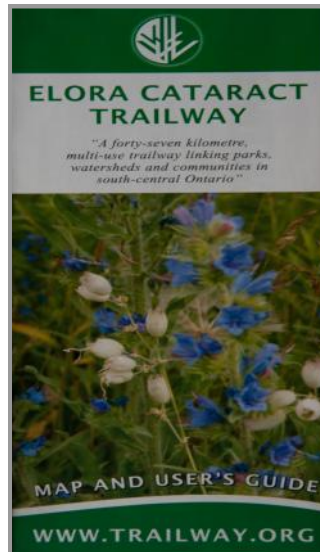
Low Calorie, Eco-organic Holiday Gift - It's Green, Too!

Yep, we have a holiday gift idea that will help the environment, improve the recipients' health, make you feel good and support the Elora Cataract Trailway. Believe it or not, you can accomplish all this with one gift - a gift that gives all year!

Give a membership to the Elora Cataract Trailway Association. We'll mail or email (your preference) the person you are giving the gift membership to with details of your gift. If you prefer, we can send the letter to you instead. It's hard to give just one!

NEW TRAIL MAP Planned for 2011

The Elora Cataract Trailway map is developed, printed (25,000 copies at a time) and funded by the ECTA. These are distributed to parks, libraries, Kiosks, Chamber of Commerce offices, Tourism Offices, and handed out to individuals. Our supply of the current map is running low and we will shortly start working on the next edition.



Volunteer opportunity *

If you have ideas for what the new map should look like, what information we should include or would like to help out, send email to info@trailway.org or call Raymond at 519-843-7703. We need help with the design as well as to sell advertising space in the map to help defray the cost.



"Thank you!"
to **Sentex** for providing ECTA with Free Web Hosting.
Please consider **Sentex** when looking for an ISP.

Gerrie Road Trailhead

The Gerrie Road Trailhead is proof that when you have dedicated volunteers with the proper knowhow, a lot can be accomplished. Sandi Moss who sits on the board is an avid gardener as well as hiker. It was her vision and enthusiasm (with assistance from Gail Brown) to transform the Gerrie Road Trailhead into a much more welcoming area for trail users. This year, with a lot of help from Gail and several other volunteers, Sandi transformed the area with many new plants and flowers. I know that Sandi isn't done, so keep

watching. A commemorative bench will be installed thanks to the generous donation from Graham A. Giddy Funeral Homes. This is an important tourist area and shows off our trail well.

*** Volunteer opportunity *** : We are looking for a few individuals who would like to help maintain this garden at the Gerrie Road Trailhead. A few hours a month during the growing season is what's needed. If you're interested please email info@trailway.org or call Sandi at 519-846-9980.



What a great makeover!

DONATION:

To give a donation please make cheque payable to either one of the foundations listed below. All donations to the foundations will receive an income tax receipt. The funds will flow back to the ECTA for trail improvements and capital projects.

Credit Valley Conservation Foundation The Grand River Foundation

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

VOLUNTEER: I would like to VOLUNTEER, please contact me.

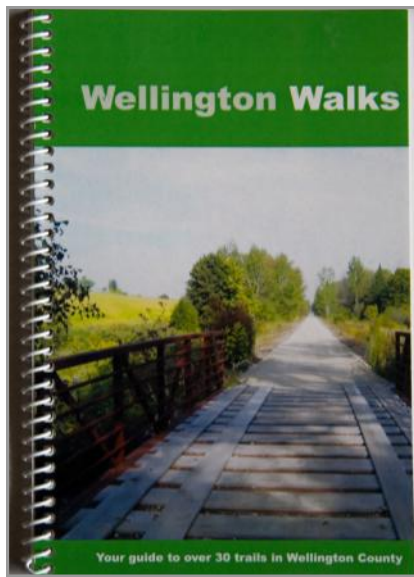
TRAIL CAPTAIN: I would like to Trail Captain, please contact me.

We are looking for **pictures** of the trailway that we can use on the trailway website. If you have pictures you would like to contribute, email them to general@trailway.org. You can also mail a CD to our PO box.

Have a look at your mailing label. It will tell you when your membership expires.

New Trail Book Published

A new Trail guide called "Wellington Walks, 2010 Edition" was recently published by the Planning and Development Department of Wellington County. This book is a guide to over 30 trails in the County. Reference copies are available at all Wellington County libraries and eventually it will be available online. It was written by Denise Boyd-Dunlop and Sarah Wilhelm with input from many volunteer organizations.



In May 2010 the Directors of ECTA granted "power to issue amendments" to the County of Wellington Official Plan to a subcommittee composed of Dave Blacklock, Rick Goodfellow, Ian Rankine [director] and Tom Skimison [director]. The subcommittee has submitted a draft of the proposed amendments to Sarah Wilhelm, a County of Wellington planner, for review and comment.

The intent of the proposed amendments is:

- to provide and promote a safe and accessible pedestrian and bicycle network within existing communities and new developments, including, where feasible, dedicated bicycle lane space on appropriate streets and roads;
- to ensure that suitable parking at key access points [trail heads and all new subdivisions] be a high priority;
- to provide an integrated and connected multi-use and multi-seasonal trail network, as part of an active transportation system, linking neighbourhoods, parks and other key destinations.

The draft document is available for review and comment on the ECTA website. The County anticipates amending its Official Plan by the end of 2010.

submitted by Ian Rankine

Active Transportation

The Elora Cataract Trailway Association served notice at the Special Council Meeting on February 25, 2010 that it intended to submit proposed amendments to the County of Wellington Official Plan.



www.trailway.org

Elora Cataract Trailway Association Membership Application Form



Renewal New Membership Gift No. in household _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

\$25 — 1 Year \$100 — 5 Years

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

The following article is reproduced here with permission from and *Thanks!* to the **Fergus-Elora News Express** and **Francis Baker**.

Trailway garden vandalized

Almost as soon as the garden at the Gerrie Road entrance to the Elora-Cataract Trailway was planted, people started dumping garbage in it.

Household garbage, yard waste, and big items like a dog pen and a snow sled have all been dumped in the garden area. The garden itself has been vandalized, the flowers and plants damaged by the dumping and by people who've dragged garbage through it, says trailway volunteer Sandra Moss.

Located at the end of the small parking lot off Gerrie Road that marks an entrance to the trail, the garden sits just beside the big information sign and to the left of the trail entrance.

Vandalism and dumping "started almost as soon as we got the garden planted last June," Moss said. Stakes put in to mark it off were pulled out, then larger logs brought to mark the boundary were rolled away.

Although the Elora garbage transfer station is just north on Gerrie Road, Moss says the rest of the trail area doesn't seem to be used for dumping - whoever's doing it seems to be targeting the garden itself. "The other problem we have is with people using the flower bed as a washroom," she said.

Trailway members like Moss have been routinely cleaning up, stacking garbage and hauling it away, and replanting the garden when it's damaged, but they're becoming discouraged and annoyed by what's happening. "You think you're trying to make it nicer ... So many people say how much

they enjoy the garden," she said. After getting the OPP to come out to the site, Moss said "they more or less suggested there was nothing they could do."

The Grand River Conservation Authority is considering signing the area, but Moss says it would take a 24-hour guard at the site to stop what's going on.

By Francis Baker, News Express Staff



News Express/Francis Baker

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: 2010, 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.

Support the ECTA with your MEMBERSHIP

I was at a conference recently and the discussion turned to membership. In all types of organizations like ours, overall membership has taken a dip in the past two years. I can only think that this is the effect of the recession. Trail usage on the other hand, we suspect is up as more people turn to the Trailway for everything from health, enjoyment of nature, relaxation and as a transportation corridor. That's good news and we want to continue for many years. The ECTA's goals are to Promote, Enhance and Protect the Elora Cataract Trailway.

As you will read in this newsletter, the ECTA has been busy and we have many more projects either on the go or in the planning stage. But and this is a big BUT, we can't do it without your membership. I believe a membership provides great value and would make a wonderful gift this holiday season. Your \$25 helps support all the programs you read about in this newsletter and past newsletters. Let's not forget our website, www.trailway.org which helps inform both locals and tourists about the Trailway and surrounding area. I hope you will agree and renew your membership and add an ECTA membership to your gift giving list.

More Commemorative Benches to be Installed on the Trailway

Project B.O.O.T. (Benches on our Trailway) continues to be a major project involving 6 LIONS Clubs (Elora, Fergus, Belwood, Marsville, Hillsburgh, Erin) and the ECTA with co-operation from both GRCA and CVCA. Six benches have been installed, the latest one commemorating the Fergus Horticultural Society is just off Second Line outside of Fergus. Six more benches will be installed next spring.



The idea for Project B.O.O.T. came from Denis Vinette of the Belwood LIONS. Its goal is to place benches along all 47km of the Trailway.

For the price of \$450, anyone can purchase a commemorative bench from any of the LIONS Clubs involved or ECTA Chair (Raymond Soucy) at info@trailway.org or 519-843-7703. The LIONS club will provide the bench (GRCA & CVCA approved design), install it and provide maintenance.

These are great benches to commemorate someone's memory or show support from a company or organization.



Join us for
Hike the Trail!
 Series 2011

Look for details
 In the new year

HIKE

the trail!



ELORA CATARACT TRAILWAY
www.trailway.org

Series 2010

An invitation to join a series of casual hikes on the beautiful Elora Cataract Trailway ...
 Centre Wellington's Hidden Gem.



Sunday **MAY 2nd**, 10 am start - Signs of Spring ... Birds & Buds

Sunday **JUNE 6th**, 10 am start - Lilacs and Blossoms

Sunday **JULY 11th**, 9 pm start - Flight of the Fireflies

Evening hike - please remember to bring your flash light!

Sunday **AUGUST 8th**, 10 am start - Butterflies and Asters

Sunday **SEPTEMBER 12th**, 10 am start - Apples & Berries

Sunday **OCTOBER 3rd**, 10 am start - Cornstalks & Goblins

Sunday **NOVEMBER 7th**, 10 am start - Poppies & Memories

Sunday **DECEMBER 5th**, 10 am start - Jingle Bell Hike

Mark your calendar & enter your name
 for a fabulous prize!

Enter your name at each hike to increase your chances ...
 Draw held December 5th.

Bring your camera, and take a photo along the way and yours may be chosen for the cover of the C.W. Community Guide - Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter, or the new version of the Elora Cataract Trailway Brochure Map

Please submit your high resolution digital images along with contact information to dsmith@centrewellington.ca
 Or for more information, please phone 519-843-2800.

If your photo is selected, you will be required to complete a written waiver.

ALL HIKES WILL BEGIN AT THE GERRIE ROAD ENTRANCE.
 RAIN OR SHINE. MAPS WILL BE AVAILABLE.







Explore the Elora Cataract Trailway today,
 and be Active everyday ... for your Health




www.centrewellington.ca