

The Trail Times

Oxford County Trails Council

Fall 2021

E-transfers now available for donations and memberships.

To modernize our payment system we can now receive payments by E-transfer. Secure payments can be made to:

admin@oxfordcountyrailsCouncil.ca.

When using this option please be sure to provide a password so that we can process your payment and be sure to specify if it's a donation, a trail badge claim, new membership or membership renewal. New membership, donation and badge payments should include your full name, postal address and preferred e-mail address so that we can send a charitable receipt, if applicable.

We would like to thank all members and donors for funds necessary to keep our trails interesting and safe. Every penny we raise goes into trail maintenance and improvement.



Birds on our trails

Cedar Waxwings are a fairly common sight on our trails in Oxford County. They feed on berries and insects and can be seen year round, if there is a good berry crop. Almost always they are seen in small to large-sized flocks rather than individually. The exception to this is in nesting season, which is late summer. They nest in brushy areas and near streams.

Photo/article by Richard Skevington

Our volunteers.

The Oxford Thames River Trail and the Hickson Trail are maintained by a small group of dedicated volunteers, year round. Tasks include mowing, tree and brush trimming, water management, installation and maintenance of trail furniture, designing and installing signage, trail clean-up, and habitat enhancement. Council business such as fund-raising, accounting, membership records, newsletter publishing and relations with other trails and environmental groups are also purely voluntary.

Volunteering requires a high level of commitment, teamwork, the ability to communicate effectively, safety awareness, outdoor interest and skills, reliability, own transportation and reasonable physical fitness. While most of our work is done in spring, summer and fall we also inspect the trail during winter for safety hazards. Volunteers are required to provide their own personal protective equipment including work boots, gloves and, when needed, safety glasses, a hard hat and hearing protection.

If you have the time and interest to be a committed trail maintenance volunteer please e-mail our Secretary/Treasurer at: kenwestcar@sympatico.ca

www.oxfordcountyrailsCouncil.ca



New bench installation on the eastern sand hills section of the Oxford Thames River Trail will provide a pleasant rest stop for trail users and a panoramic view of the Oxford Thames River Wetlands. Installed by volunteers it will eventually include additional landscaping and a sign listing project donors. Check it out during your next visit!

Ospreys can often be spotted on area trails as they search for fish in rivers and ponds. Their presence is a strong indicator of the health of the wetland ecosystem. A nesting platform has been installed on the south boundary of the Oxford Thames River Wetlands by volunteers.



Watch this new YouTube video from Tourism Oxford (Ctrl/click):

[Take That Exit to Oxford County - YouTube](#)



Trains always win!

The Oxford Thames River Trail is located between two active railway lines and there's a great temptation to use them as a shortcut by crossing the tracks. If apprehended by a railway police officer while on railway property you will face a fine of at least \$600.

You might think the line is clear but a train at low power can approach quietly and by the time the engineer sounds the horn it could be too late. Trying to outrun an approaching train is often lethal. Imagine the trauma of the train crew as you disappear under the wheels and the EMS team as they pick up body parts—yours!

Remember: **Stay Off, Stay Away, Stay Alive**

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