

The Trail Times

Oxford County Trails Council

Spring 2021

Upgrading Oxford Thames River Trail signs



Most of our trailside signs are now ten years old and are showing the effects of weather. The bird signs will be replaced like-for-like while others will receive a fresh new look. A new sign, installed near the picnic pavilion, will provide more information on the Oxford Thames Wetlands and the important work done by Ducks Unlimited and Stewardship Oxford to improve flora and fauna habitat and water quality in the Thames River.

A new kiosk will be installed at the Beachville end of the Oxford Thames River Trail to welcome visitors and provide more information about the extent of walking and cycling opportunities and the trail ecosystem. All sign improvements have been made possible through the generosity of members, donors and the dedication of our volunteers.

Hickson Trail visitors can enjoy old CP Rail infrastructure and the new Roya Chamanch memorial bench in the north trail section. Nearby Mud Creek and bird feeders offer minnow, frog and bird spotting opportunities. Be sure to observe the private property notices.



Mud Creek rail and trail bridges



The Roya Chamanch memorial bench



Please— No fires!!!

A trailside fire might be an outdoor ritual but making one on any trail could lead to catastrophic habitat and property damage.



The North American Robin



Trails cred – earn yours!

Our badge program is in full swing and we have awarded a number of certificates and badges in all our levels....bronze, silver and gold. If you find yourself on our trails why not join the program and be rewarded for logging your kilometers. All the details are on our website. It's easy to do and so much fun.

**OXFORD COUNTY TRAILS COUNCIL
BADGE PROGRAM**

Walk, run or hike any or all the trails and work your way to a Trails Badge.

Bronze Badge For 50 kilometres
Silver Badge for 100 kilometres
Warrior Badge for all trails

Trails Etiquette

- ◇ All pets must be on leash at all times as a courtesy to other trail users.
- ◇ Stay on marked trails. Excursions into the undergrowth can disturb nesting birds and invite tick infestation.
- ◇ Please don't litter or leave dog poop bags on the trail or in the car park. Someone else will need to clean up your mess.
- ◇ Don't remove any plant materials or damage tree bark.
- ◇ Practice social distancing.
- ◇ Refrain from lighting fires. Fire services have no trail access and you could face prosecution under local by-laws in addition to destroying the enjoyment of others.
- ◇ If cycling please match your speed to prevailing sight-lines.
- ◇ Stay off railway property—trains always win.
- ◇ Always be respectful of the hard work of our volunteers.



Ongoing developments at Hodges Pond include an information kiosk, viewing mound and trail grooming

Where your memberships and donations go.

After paying for mandated professional services, necessary for our charitable status, all of your memberships and donations are used for trail construction and maintenance. Other than employing hired-in contractors for heavy tasks we are reliant on our dedicated volunteers who work on the trail and behind the scenes to make your trails experience safe and enjoyable.

Join OCTC or renew today!

Oxford County Trails Council

www.oxfordcountyrailscouncil.ca