

# *The Trail Times*

## *Oxford County Trails Council*

Summer 2021



### Angling in the Thames River

Many fish species inhabit the Thames River including carp, bass, chub, and pike. Although organic bait such as worms and minnows and inorganic metal and plastic lures can provide results, this year's unusually low water levels and high water clarity offer an opportunity for fly-fishing. Knowledgeable fly anglers, using wet or dry flies, preferably with barbless hooks, can find good sport in pools below rapids. Patience is required as is "catch and release".

### Summer birds on our trails

The **Eastern Kingbird** is one of our long-range migrants that over-winters in South America and arrives in Southern Ontario in mid-May. They nest in scrubby open habitats with shrubs and trees including hawthorn, apple, elm and Norway Spruce. You can see them sitting on fences, power lines and trees as they scan the area looking for insects to dine on, such as grasshoppers, ants, beetles, crickets, wasps, bees and flies. It's fun to watch them swooping after their prey. Their diet is topped off with cherries, serviceberries, mulberries and elderberries.

### **Eastern Kingbird**



Photo/article by Richard Skevington

### Be diligent—be safe on the trails



While enjoying the solitude of nature there are a few things to be aware of. We are deep into tick season. Also poison ivy. To avoid these nasty encounters we strongly suggest you stick to the main trails....leashed dogs too. Pants tucked into your socks will definitely help. A lint roller brush rubbed over your clothing after your hike can assist in removing ticks. Additionally, it's always prudent to keep your eyes and ears open to avoid surprise encounters with larger wild animals such as foxes and coyotes. Chances are rare that you'll see one but it's good to know they are active in our area. Climate change and urbanization continue to influence wild fauna and flora habitat and populations so be alert and informed.



### Safe sharing the trails.

Cyclists and hikers are both welcome on our trails but care is needed to avoid conflicts. Cyclists, always ride at a speed matched to the stopping distance of your sightline. Use a bell to warn pedestrians of your approach, especially from the rear. If speed and daily kilometers are your only considerations you may be riding in the wrong place.



**Trails badge program.** Show your commitment to a healthy lifestyle and enjoyment of the Oxford County trails experience by registering for our badge program. Full details at [www.oxfordcountyrailsCouncil.ca](http://www.oxfordcountyrailsCouncil.ca)



With increased traffic on our trails we ask that you help maintain them by not discarding cigarette or joint butts, plastic water bottles or any other kind of litter. **You must pick up after your dog.** As tempting as it is to leave dog feces behind they can carry bacteria and parasites that will leach into the ground and destroy the delicate balance of this natural environment in addition to infecting wildlife and humans in the area. If you happen upon damage on the trails or anything else that shouldn't be there please contact us through our web site or social media portals.

### Coming later this year.....

Donated materials to construct an accessible observation point on the sand-hills part of the Oxford Thames River Trail are being gathered by trail volunteers. Two comfortable steel benches



Bidwell 's Towing of Ingersoll is seen here delivering concrete sections for the bench platform.

***Please donate to this worthy project via Canada Helps and get an instant tax receipt!***

### **\*Trail car parking\***

Please be advised that the **only** approved parking area for the Oxford Thames River Trail is at the culvert lot just off the 45th Line. Parking on CN and private property risks ticketing and towing. If you wish to access the Beachville end of the trail please park legally and respectfully in the village and walk to the trail entrance.

will provide seating for 6 persons and overlook the Thames River Wetlands where abundant bird life will delight trail users of all ages and recognition skills.

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