

The Trail Times

Oxford County Trails Council

Winter 2021/2022



Winter walking

Although it's tempting to stay inside during the winter months, getting wrapped up and walking a local trail can be good for your mental and physical health. On a winter trail landscapes, trees, shrubs and ponds come into sharp contrast. Wild animal tracks offer clues to active overwintering fauna. Proper footwear including waterproof boots and, with snow or ice underfoot, icers or crampons are recommended.



Birds on our trails

Bald Eagle

Once a bird that was not a regular visitor to Oxford County, it is now breeding in several places here. Usually they migrate to warmer climes in the winter, but you can now see this magnificent bird locally in the wintertime. They hunt along the open waters of the Thames River or over Pittock Lake, until freeze up and then seek alternative food sources such as rodents. The return of bald eagles to the county is a triumph of conservation efforts and public demand to preserve connected natural environments from inappropriate human developments.

A major environmental threat is now gone!

After a nine-year community fight against the proposed 17.4m tonne dump alongside the Thames River in Zorra Township the developers have decided not to pursue the project. This will open the quarry site to environmentally friendly remediation and remove the threat of devastation of the entire Thames River watershed.



Photographed by Richard Skevington

What's in store for 2022?



Taking soil samples for analysis*

Subject to funds availability here are our plans:

- ◆ Indigenous species pollinator gardens on the sand hills.
*Soil sampling is underway to ensure success.
- ◆ An additional picnic bench in the east end pavilion.
- ◆ New and updated signs.
- ◆ “Let’s be turtle friendly” campaign.
- ◆ Building up sections of the trail surface.

Please donate to support these projects!

Township of
SOUTH-WEST OXFORD



WINTER
Walk for Warmth

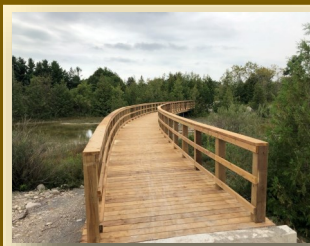
FEBRUARY 19, 2022
2:00-5:00 P.M.

MONETARY DONATIONS OR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS
WILL BE GLADLY ACCEPTED TO HELP SUPPORT THOSE
FACING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR AREA

**AT THE THAMES RIVER TRAIL IN
BEACHVILLE**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ENGAGE & INFORM COMMITTEE

**Please check the SWOX website for updates
to this event.**



Progress on Woodstock's Sliver Trail.

The City of Woodstock continues to expand the Sliver Trail adjacent to the Pittock Conservation Area entrance. This new boardwalk over a wetland has been complemented by several additional kilometers of trail through varying ecosystems including pine forest. Trail gradients are modest and several loops enable users to select their comfortable walking distance without backtracking. Keep watch for hawks and other bird life.

Take the bus to the Oxford Thames River Trail



For schedules:

<https://www.tillsonburg.ca/en/live-and-play/tgo-transit.aspx#Route-1-Monday-to-Friday>

E-transfer is now available for donations and memberships: admin@oxfordcountytrailsCouncil.ca

Oxford County Trails Council

www.oxfordcountytrailsCouncil.ca