

# The Trail Times

## Oxford County Trails Council

Spring 2022

### Earn your OCTC trails badges!

Group hikes make it easier to reach Warrior status.

[Check our web site for more details.](#)

Image courtesy of Sandra Green and friends



### Spring and Summer birds on our trails

The **Eastern Towhee** is a large colourful member of the sparrow family. They arrive in April, preferring scrubby areas for nesting and feeding.

When feeding, you can see them scratching amongst the litter on the ground in search of seeds.

The male's song is a very loud and distinctive, " DRINK YOUR TEEEEE" , usually from a high vantage point.

Nesting takes place shortly after arriving. They nest close to or on the ground, both parents taking part in raising their young. They may have as many as 3 broods. Fall migration is usually in late September.

### Eastern Towhee



Photo by Richard Skevington

***Please join or renew your membership soon!***

***[See our web site for the various membership levels and payment options.](#)***

***All memberships and donations are used to maintain and improve our trails.***

[www.oxfordcountyrailsCouncil.ca](http://www.oxfordcountyrailsCouncil.ca)

## What's happening in 2022?



Each year we maintain and improve this trail to ensure you have the best and safest experience possible. **Here are our 2022 plans for the Oxford Thames River Trail:**

- ◇ Adding a second picnic bench to the pavilion at the east end of the trail and sealing the pavilion floor.
- ◇ Finishing landscaping around the Thames River Wetlands viewing benches.
- ◇ Installing new and upgraded signage along the trail.
- ◇ Grading the 45th Line parking lot to improve drainage and safety.
- ◇ Preparing a native species pollinator garden area on the west slope of the sandhills. This will be a two-year project in conjunction with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.
- ◇ Repairing the trail surface with the addition of screenings donated by Carmeuse Lime.
- ◇ Adjusting water flow to wetland-fed ponds to reduce erosion.
- ◇ Installing signs at the SCT bus stops in Beachville to encourage the use of public transit for trail access.

When using the trail please be alert for work crews and machines. If cycling, adjust your speed to your line of sight so that you can stop safely. Obey any instructions from volunteers or contractors working on the trail.

## Hickson Trail update.

The Hickson Trail Committee (HTC) has been formally disbanded and all maintenance work will now be done by the Township of East Zorra Tavistock (EZT). Oxford County Trails Council thanks HTC for their perseverance and dedication in building the trail and EZT for their ongoing stewardship for the enjoyment of all visitors.

## Woodstock trails roundup.

The **Sliver Trail** (entry adjacent to the Pittock Conservation Area kiosk) has been extended eastward with several new loops offering a variety of ecosystem experiences and walking distances.

The City has also installed **30 new benches** on local trails, all sponsored, for the enjoyment of trail users.

Accessibility improvements are planned for the **Brickponds Wetlands** area including a new elevated viewing platform. Great for birders, turtlers and muskratters!



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.

**Please remember: Pets on leash at all times on this trail!**

*Oxford County Trails Council*

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