

The Trail Times

Oxford County Trails Council

Winter 2023



Walking on any Oxford County Trail is a chance to observe the stark contrast between the forest, sky and land that the lushness of other seasons conceals. Colourful winter birds are easier to spot as are the tracks of animals. Watch for the refraction of sunlight through icicles that are nature's jewels.

Our natural spaces are under threat!

It's easy to take our trails for granted particularly those adjacent to rivers and wetlands. Provincial Bill 23 and Ministerial Zoning Orders can lead to new urban and industrial developments where they don't belong. Wetland destruction and river pollution are not the way Oxford County works.

Speak out against putting profits ahead of a healthy environment. Call or write your M.P.P.

*Winter Walk
for Warmth*

Saturday, February 25, 2023
Thames River Trail
454779 45th Line, Beachville
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

MONETARY DONATIONS OR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED TO HELP THOSE FACING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR AREA	HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY: SWOX Engage and Inform Committee Thames River Trail Board Sweaburg District Lions
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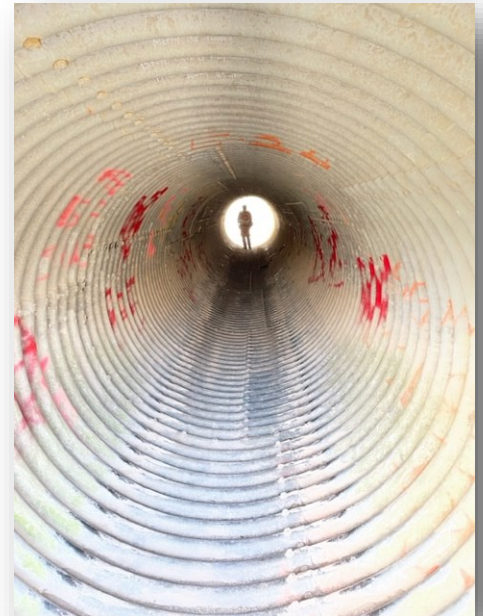
For more information please visit www.swox.org

Major improvements to culvert entrance.

Volunteers and local contractors, supported by donors and members, have almost completed the project to improve year-round access to the Oxford Thames River Trail and discourage trespassing on busy CN railway tracks.



Excavation of packed soil in the culvert was done by hand over two working days. Remaining dust was blown out and the culvert thoroughly inspected. A steel grating floor was installed to provide 6'4" headroom and underfloor drainage space. To minimize winter ice and water accumulation a new land drain was dug to the vernal (seasonal) pond on the trail's south side. An accessible entrance from the car park will be finished in early 2023.



The **Red-Tailed Hawk** is our most common hawk (Buteo) in Ontario and is found throughout North America. Slightly larger than the American Crow its colouring is variable by age. Young birds tend to have more of a brown tail and lack the black belly band.

It nests in woodlots, feeds primarily on rodents and small mammals and can be seen sitting along roadways on posts and power lines in search of food. Although common year round, most red tails migrate south in late fall.

It is a protected species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.



Image and text by Richard Skevington



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www.oxfordcountyrailsCouncil.ca

