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Weekly E-Bulletin of the Ontario Trails Council. The provincial trails association in Ontario. Week of September 18, 2014



- Community Trail News • Trail Events
- Member Links • User News • Surveys and Feedback

Ontario Trails Council AGM

We invite all members to attend the Ontario Trails Council AGM. Hamilton is host to the OTC 2014 OTC AGM.

We wish to thank McMaster University for acting as host.

Location: McMaster University Club.

AGM agenda with Dial in was sent this week to OTC Members.

Not a Member?

Join today.

Click on photo for full event information.

[!\[\]\(56549452e01ca28bdf2500ced9653143_img.jpg\) Friend on Facebook](#)

[!\[\]\(1f56542a42e2413e44a2b2023033aa2e_img.jpg\) Follow on Twitter](#)

[!\[\]\(19d44b37fb4fa155bf9d60c77a3d3cb2_img.jpg\) Forward to a Friend](#)



Trail Heros

Know somebody that works hard on trails? If so nominate them to be an Ontario Trails "Trail Hero!" We'd be happy to review your recommendations and acknowledge in a small way their contribution to trails in your community.



Ontario Trails created an event.
June 22



Ontario Trails Council AGM
Wednesday, September 24 at 1:00pm
McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario
3 people are going

Trails Story - From South Nation Conservation

Over Labor Day weekend, South Nation Conservation (SNC) hosted a set of visitors at its Warwick Forest Conservation Area. Hooved friends and their riders, of the Seaway Valley Arabian Horse Association, took part in the Stormont Ride and toured across the newly-completed Warwick Forest boardwalk.

Ride organizers were grateful for the ongoing support of SNC and in the true spirit of community partnership the Seaway Valley Arabian Horse Association, the local sanctioning body of the biannual rides, contributed towards the lumber for the new boardwalk engineered and constructed by SNC.

Although the horses were initially apprehensive of the new structure, the riders were grateful to have the boardwalk in place for the ride to save them from navigating the muddy gully.



Trail Blog

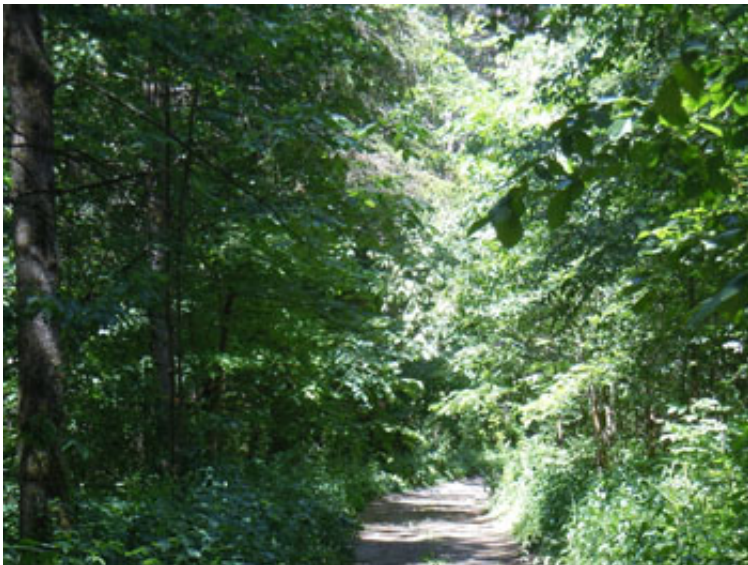
Every day trails are news!
Every day we blog about trails. In communities all over Ontario trails are big news, for cyclists, runners, canoe or horses, every day we capture in one spot all the trail news - local, provincial or national!
Join today!



Trail Leaders!

Join Ontario's first ever series of 13 online trail education courses in the development and management of trails. Designed for both volunteers and professionals. Next Course begins in September Topic - Trail Management. [Register today](#) - registration is open 24/7





SNC manages and maintains a range of natural areas and Conservation Areas such as the Warwick Forest Conservation Area, hosting recreational opportunities and many unique events put on by community groups each year.

The Stormont Ride has become a true local success story as over the past ten years it has grown from a small local ride to one that has earned international respect. Seaway Valley Arabian Horse Association bases the success of this event largely on the support the organizers receive locally from their volunteers, their local business community, landowners and from their relationship with SNC.

For more information on South Nation Conservation Areas or for a list of events taking place in the South Nation Watershed please visit: www.nation.on.ca and for more information on the Stormont Ride and the Seaway Valley Arabian Horse Association please visit: <http://seawayvalleyarab.com/events.htm>.

Please take the time to enjoy the trails on foot or on horseback - you will be glad you did!

Trails Education News

We have completed the complete program curriculum for the Algonquin College supported Ontario Trails Council Trail Skills and Education Program.

Join OTC

The Ontario Trails Council is a nonprofit charitable organization, established in 1988, that promotes the development, preservation, management and use of recreational trails. With over 130 organizational members and 25 individual supporters the OTC continues to grow! Support trails in Ontario - join the OTC



Learn an Activity

Our website contains information on over 2,600 trails, and a description for nearly 2,000. Learn about the places where you can bike, cross country ski, climb or any of another 15 activities. We are linked to over 130 organizations and a variety of provincial groups that can help you learn an activity or become better at one you already love!

Over the summer we have added the three final modules:

- Budgeting and Planning for Trails
- Trail Tourism
- Trail Risk Management

These three modules have been added to the already comprehensive program of [Trail Planning](#), [Trail Stewardship](#), and [Trail Management](#).



Ontario Trails Education and Skill Development Program

85 likes - 1 talking about this

Education

The Ontario Trails Council is developing a 14 module education curriculum that standardizes excellence in trail skill development, trail management and more!

About



Photos



Likes

NEXT COURSE -

Oct. 2014

Add Your Event

We post trail or outdoor events on trail specific facebook pages, the main OTC facebook page, and the event section of the OTC website. You can send us your event and we'll post it to these extensive networks. Each week we reach over 20,000 people, so if you want your event known, a bit better, send us the information.



Add/Edit Trails

An important part of the Refreshed OTC Web site will be a dynamic page dedicated to each trail. It is important that you give us as much information as possible - this will be the only source for

Trail Management

Course: OAD3002

The management of trails is complex and requires experts with business acumen to ensure the development and viability of a trail system as a community and tourism asset. Students learn essentials of business planning, budgeting, marketing and promotion of trails. Mitigating risk and engaging volunteers are also explored. Students come away with the strategies and skills necessary to manage projects in the trail industry.

FALL 2014

Online Learning

Section	Date(s)	Mode	Price	
800	Sep 9 - Dec 16	Online	\$425.80	REGISTER ONLINE

Trail Steward

Course: OAD3000

This course is listed under the following fields of study:

Community Studies

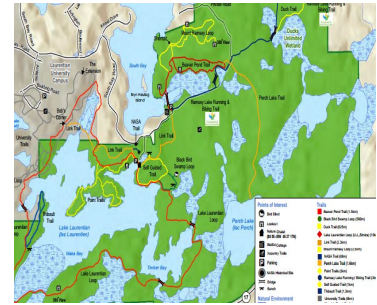
Personal and group safety on trails is important and, to ensure safety, the trail industry adheres to trail standards and maintenance practices guided by provincial legislation. Students examine the basic requirements of being an effective member of a trail management crew through conducting trail assessments, completing trail inventory, following trail standards and learning the basics of trail maintenance.

FALL 2014

Online Learning

Section	Date(s)	Mode	Price	
800	Sep 9 - Sep 30	Online	\$160.00	REGISTER ONLINE

creating your dedicated page on the OTC Web site. If we don't get the information from you, it won't make it onto the site. If you have any questions about the [form](#), please contact Patrick at 613-484-1140. Thank you for taking the time to add or edit your trail on the Ontario Trails Council Web site.



Be a Friend of Trails

We invite all trail users to support the work of the Ontario Trails Council. As a registered charity we do our community work based on the support of member organizations, individuals and some government grants. We do the work, in the end for the individual families and folks that use the trails every day. Please consider supporting us as your thanks for your trails. Thank you.

Trail Planning

Course: OAD3001

This course is listed under the following fields of study:

Community Studies

Within the trail industry, there are trail standards and maintenance practices to follow. Students acquire base-level knowledge of organizing and planning trail systems and learn to recognize and utilize the necessary steps to plan and create a sustainable trail. This is accomplished through the usage of provincial legislation and the incorporation of interpretive and educational trail signage within a trail system.

FALL 2014

Online Learning

Section	Date(s)	Mode	Price	
841	Oct 1 - Jan 7	Online	\$650.00	REGISTER ONLINE

Be sure to sign up for one of these stimulating and challenging courses. Whether a staff or a volunteer you'll be surprised at what you learn, and how your trail knowledge will be enhanced.

Projects Updates - National Trails Coalition (ON)

This program was announced at the end of June. In total the OTC had 93 enquiries for funding. Snowmobile had 89 projects come forward and ORV 19, for a total of 201 expressions of interest.

This led to 59 applications being received by non-motorized. 13 of these are mixed use, either non-motorized/snowmobile, snowmobile/ORV, non-motorized/ORV, or all 3.



Member Requests

1) Algonquin College program on-line



Trail Steward

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Personal and group safety on trails is important and, to ensure safety, the trail industry adheres to trail standards and maintenance practices guided by provincial legislation. Students examine the basic requirements of being an effective member of a trail management crew through conducting trail assessments, completing trail inventory, following trail standards and learning the basics of trail maintenance.

WINTER 2014

Online Learning

Section	Date(s)	Mode	Price	
800	Jan 14 - Feb 4	Online	\$83.24	REGISTER ONLINE

2) OTC Mobile App - for iProducts and Windows

Ontario Trails Map Mobile App!

This is what the application looks like on the Apple iTunes homepage



This is what the homepage looks like when you open it up on your iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch



You can search by City, Trail Name or Nearby. The Nearby will tell you what trails are close whether you know the name or not. You must have GPS coordinates or location finder on for this.



The total value of work on these 59 projects (without single snowmobile, or single ORV) is over \$21,000,000. The project costs alone are \$17,600,000. The dollars raised by the communities applying is over \$10,000,000 of this and the NTC contribution is of course maxed at \$2.1 million.

The Ontario Review Committee has met on one occasion to reconcile receipt and acknowledgements. We are working towards September approvals and communications.

The NTC also hired a National Program Facilitator - his name is Roger Pelletier. He can be reached by email at: rogpel@videotron.ca

In the same time frame as we are working on all this we got an acknowledgement that the Ontario Government is not going to support the OTC.

Membership Growth - Join Today.

Ontario Trails Council Membership is now over **220** member organizations and individuals.

Two of the services we provide are: Expertise and Advocacy

3) Post Photos to Pinterest



4) OTC on Foursquare



5) Safe Trails Manual



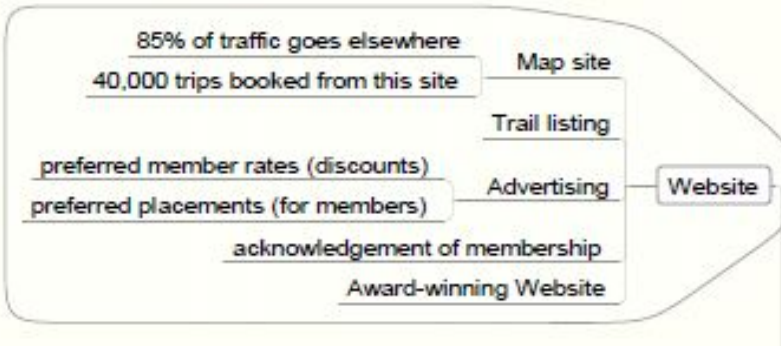
ONTARIO TRAILS COUNCIL
SAFE TRAILS MANUAL

6) OTC Youtube Channel



and

Our Award Winning Website:



Your support helps us keep staff, service trails and other charitable obligations. [Membership Pages](#)

Trails Profile

Couchiching Conservancy

ONTARIO TRAILS



powered by



7) Ontario Trails Maps



8) Enabling Change Program



9) OTC Board 2013-14

Jack De Wit - PRESIDENT
 Ontario Equestrian Federation
 905-655-4666
cndhrsman@bellnet.ca

September is a perfect time to get outside and discover the bursts of colour and texture fall-blooming native wildflower provide to the landscape; not to mention their importance in the ecosystem.

Learn about fall wildflowers in an article written by Gayle Carlyle from [Couchiching Conservancy!](#)



Lighting up the autumn - fall wildflowers

www.couchichingconserv.ca

September is a perfect time to get outside and discover the bursts of colour and texture these plants provide to the landscape; not to mention their importance in the ecosystem.

Dan Andrews - Secretary/Treasurer

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Wayne Daub

Ontario Federation of All Terrain

Vehicle Clubs

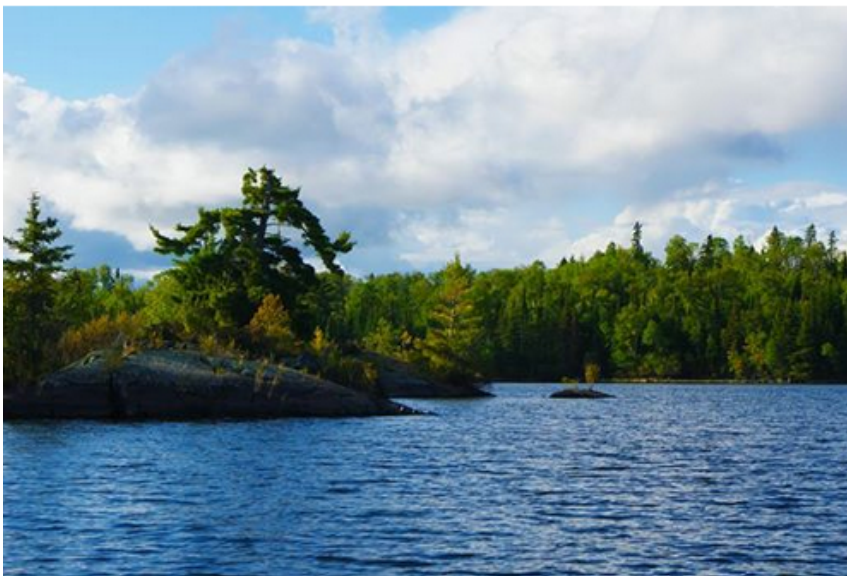
519-500-3715

w-daub@rogers.com

Ontario Sunset Country

Fall creeping in to Ontario's Sunset Country! ❤️ A beautiful photo taken just north of devil's gap.

Fall creeping in. — with Betty Bradley and 3 others at Ontario's Sunset Country.



Igor Hoogendoorn

International Mountain Biking Association

855-255-4094 ext.108

igor.hoogendoorn@imba.com

Tim West

Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs

705-739-7669

twest@ofsc.on.ca

Graham Burke

Trails Advocate

519-941-8911

twest@ofsc.on.ca

[K](#)irsten Spence

Northern Ontario Representative

807-889-0602

trailsgirl@gmail.com

Jeff Muzzi

Sudbury Trails

One of the most popular destinations in Sudbury for walkway curves around the lake, passing the rowing/can beaches and the Grace Hartman Amphitheatre before h Science North.

<http://www....> See More



Georgian Bay Country

Manager, Forestry Services, Renfrew County

613-633-9683

JMuzzi@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

Patrick Connor

Ex-officio - Executive Director

Deseronto

613-484-1140

execdir@ontariotrails.ca

We currently have 2 vacancies on the OTC Board. If you are interested please e-mail Jack De Wit to discuss. cndhrsman@bell.net

Disclaimer

The ideas, opinions, re-posting of news, editorials and content contained in this newsletter are not necessarily the ideas or opinions of the OTC Board or staff. This news is intended for informational purposes only.

OTC Event Planning Guide
Call 877-668-7245

Ontario Trails
"Yours to Explore"



Resource Guide

Prepared for the Ontario Trails Council
Based on the "Trails Media Events Call Project - 2005/06"
By The Sutcliffe Group Incorporated
www.ontariotrails.ca

OTC Trail Committee Manual
Call 877-668-7245

Fall in love with Georgian Bay this Autumn.

Take in the fall colours while enjoying a silent stroll along the boardwalk or peaceful paddle in the marsh.

Fall is a great time of year for wildlife viewing. Many birds are migrating south and use wetlands like Wye Marsh as a pit stop along their migration route. And with cooler weather some our all year residents are more active and visible. (4 photos)



Trails News

Trails and Personal Health

Ontario Trails Membership

On behalf of OTC we thank you for your support. If there is a group you know that is not a member contact us and we'll send them a note on membership benefits. This past week we received a renewal from Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and Sault Ste. Marie Thank you very much for your support!

THANKS! MERCI!



<http://davidsuzuki.org/blogs/docs-talk/2013/04/connect-with-nature-to-reduce-stress/>



Connect with nature to reduce stress

www.davidsuzuki.org

Melissa Lem is a Toronto family physician who works and hikes in rural and remote communities across Canada. She holds a faculty appointment with the Department of Family and Community...

Like · Comment · Share

12 Shares

Dieter Eckardt, Angee Price, Anissa J. Ross and 13 others like this.



Crawford Lake Conservation Area

Invites you to:



The Ontario Trails Council is a charitable organization, incorporated in 1991, that promotes the creation, development, preservation, management and use of recreational trails in Ontario.

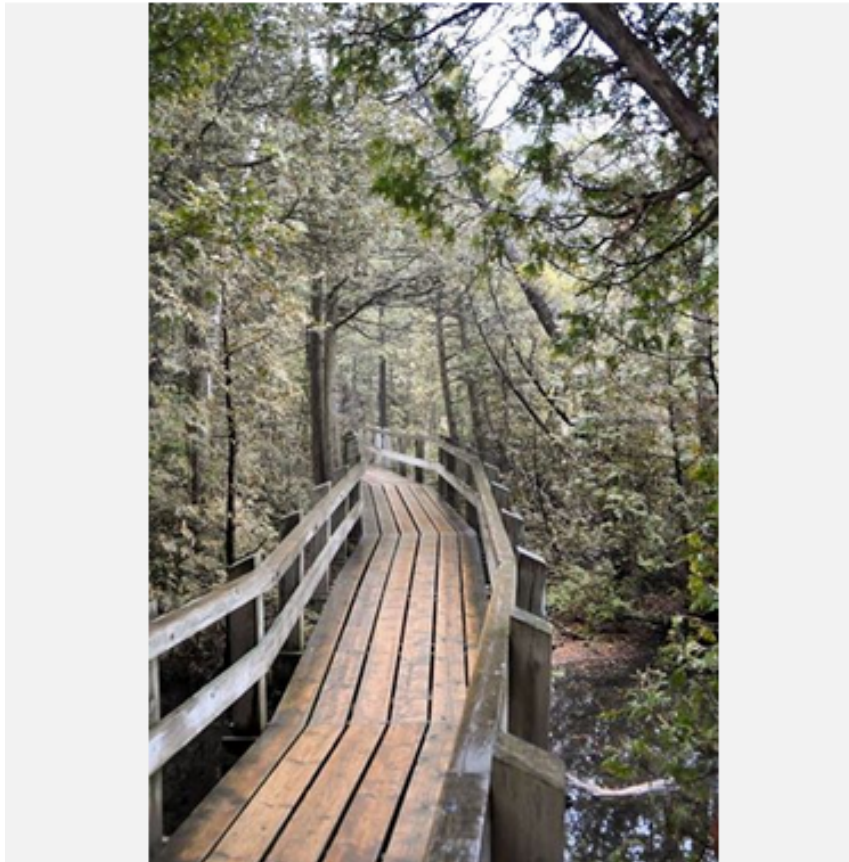
Surveys and Networking!

Don't forget to join anyone of the following information tools: Be sure to get a copy of the latest OTC E-bulletin (circulation 880+) - [here](#) Join one of our facebook pages (>6000 friends) - [here](#) Add or Edit your trail - [here](#)

Spend a day at beautiful Crawford Lake Conservation Area 😊

<http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/trails/view/crawford-lake-conservation-area-trails>

The rare lake, with surrounding boardwalk, is nestled in lush forests atop the stunning Niagara Es... [See More](#)



Complete a survey - [here](#)

Twitter to or at us (12840 followers) - [here](#)

Join the blog - [here](#)

Join Trail Counts - [here](#)

Take an On-Line Education Course - [here](#)



Photo Credit Header - Lori Costello

G2G and Huron Trails Working Group



Huron County staff members Cindy Fisher and Rebecca Rathwell have presented a proposal to County Council, calling for the creation of a working group to address issues surrounding the Goderich to Guelph Trail.

Tourism Co-ordinator Cindy Fisher explains some issues with land owners adjacent to the proposed trails have arisen as well as some misunderstandings.

Some land owners say they haven't been kept up to date with progress but Fisher points out there hasn't been much.

No lease with the province has been signed, and since the trail group's public meeting in Blyth last fall they've had several other meetings but she says it's a slow process.

Fisher suggests the working group should include representation by farmers and affected land owners; people from the G to G Incorporated Group; Huron and Perth planning departments; and someone from the Kissing Bridge Trail at the east end of the proposed trail.

Fisher points out they've been in existence for 20 years and could provide some advice on what has worked for them.

Ivanhoe PP Updates

LEN GILLIS

len.gillis@sunmedia.ca

Good news is on the way for several Northeastern Ontario provincial parks according to the man who was a key part of a citizens' campaign to keep at least three of the parks open and operational for seasonal campers.

Malcolm MacDonald said this is especially true for Ivanhoe Lake Provincial Park, near Foleyet, which is a favourite for many campers from Timmins.

He told The Timmins Times this week that it appears that the plan by Queen's Park to shut down several provincial parks back in 2012 is being completely turned around . MacDonald said that he expects Ivanhoe will be open for the 2015 season with no financial partnership required from the City of Timmins.

On the other side of the coin, the man responsible for Parks Ontario told The Timmins Times late this afternoon, that MacDonald's assessment is a bit optimistic and premature.

The whole parks deal was set up in 2012 after the McGuinty Liberals announced that 10 provincial parks in the Northeast would be closed to overnight camping as a money-saving measure. This caused outrage across the North since many Northerners regard camping as a popular summer lifestyle choice.

After several weeks of pressure from campers and politicians, the province agreed that Ivanhoe park near Timmins and Foleyet could stay open, along with Rene Brunelle and Fushimi provincial parks near Moonbeam and Hearst, respectively. The province recognized the parks as unique because of their historically high demands for seasonal camping.

As part of a pilot project, the City of Timmins agreed to cover any financial losses at Ivanhoe Lake Provincial Park for the summers of 2013 and 2014, while at the same time, encouraging local campers to use the park as much as possible and to purchase seasonal permits. It was expected the parks could be closed by 2015.

The deal was the City would cover off any deficit, and if there was a profit, then the profit would go to the Ontario Government, through Ontario Parks, a branch of Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). As lopsided as the deal sounded, City Council was ready to absorb a small deficit if it meant the park would continue operating.

The thinking was that a fully operational park near Foleyet would pay off by having the possibility of more travelling visitors arrive in Timmins, before and after their stay at Ivanhoe. People would buy gasoline, eat in restaurants or go shopping.

[More information](#)

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