

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 1

Where has the year gone?

PG. 2 & 3

“Cross the Creek” Project Update

PG. 4

More trail updates

PG. 5

A message from our Chair



“I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house.”

Nathaniel Hawthorne



2024 IS QUICKLY COMING TO A CLOSE...

We began 2024 with a plan to complete the bridge over Wilmot Creek near the Outdoor Education Centre, to plant 2200 trees north of the 5th Concession and to deal with the growing problem of Giant Hogweed.

As year end approaches, we can reflect on completion of the creek crossing, a successful planting season, and we’ve sprayed multiple times for Giant Hogweed along the creek. We have also completed some much-needed wooden bridge repairs along the orange trail, cleared multiple tree falls, and kept the grass cut along most of our trail system.

This work could not be completed without your support.

“Cross the Creek”

Project update:



CROSSING OVER TO NEW ADVENTURES!

At long last, we have completed the bridge across the Wilmot Creek near the Outdoor Education Centre!

This bridge now connects the red trail to the Taunton Rd. parking lot. Trail maps will shortly be updated to reflect the new trail access. From the Taunton lot there will now be a choice of purple, pink, or red trails to start your hike from. From there of course you can extend your visit to other areas of the property.

The bridge itself is a 2m wide and 12m long steel construction. The abutments are supported by three helical foundation screws on each side with a 2.5m steel structure supporting each end of the bridge. The stone approaches are supported by retaining walls on each side, so that pedestrians and cyclists can easily gain access to the steel bridge. The solid structure is designed to survive flooding events and provide freeboard clearance to floodwaters so as not to interfere with streamflow in the case of extreme flooding events.

We would like to thank everyone who put time, effort, and finances into supporting this project! We could not have completed this project without all your support!





PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT

Below are a few pictures of various stages of the bridge building process. A large portion of this work was completed by volunteers who committed their time and energy to seeing this project through to completion.





OTHER TRAIL MAINTENANCE

While our newest bridge has been taking a fair bit of time, we have not forgotten about the other areas of the Orono Crown Lands! We have cleared multiple tree falls, kept the grass trimmed across the trail system and dealt with various noxious plants on the property such as Giant Hogweed, stinging nettles etc.

We also still have numerous White Ash trees that have died as a result of Emerald Ash Borer infestation over the past few years. Our volunteers have tackled quite a few of them on our own, but we have requested assistance from the Ministry of Natural Resources to deal with a number of the more dangerous ones. They have arranged to address many of these in December.

We have also been replacing rotted boards on some of our older wooden bridges along the orange & blue trails. We have come to recognize that more extensive repairs will be needed in the coming years as these structures age.

"Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year."

-Chad Sugg



Still Swimming Upstream...



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR (DIRK WOULDSTRA)

To all of our members and Crown Lands supporters:

Well, the bridge is installed. If you have not seen it yet, please take some time and have a look. It is truly a complement to our amazing trail system, and it will stand for generations to come. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank all of the volunteers, members and organizations that helped to make this a reality. It was a long time coming, but your patience, perseverance, and financial contributions have helped to make this a reality. We truly have amazing board members who spend tireless hours keeping this trail system open for all to enjoy. So, thank you and enjoy this beautiful trail system created and maintained for everyone to use.