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The trails are  
still open!  
Please continue to  
practice Social  
Distancing



## THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

While much of the province has experienced multiple shutdowns in services and access, the Orono Crown Lands has remained open throughout this period, in accordance with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).

Statistics Canada reports that *“Exercise, particularly outdoors, is associated with improvements in mood as well as reduced symptoms of anxiety, anger and depression.”* How important is that in a pandemic? Our members have responded with generous support through membership renewals and donations at the trails. This support has enabled us to carry out the work of maintaining and improving our trail system. Some recent highlights are included on the following pages.

# Highlights:



## PARKING LOT EXPANSION!

If you have visited the Orono Crown Lands recently, you will have noticed that the trails are busier than they have ever been with the parking lots overflowing onto the surrounding streets. With the cancellation of so many other sporting activities, what better alternative, but to go for a nature hike!

Thanks to the generous support of members like you, the OCLT was recently able to expand the Ochonski Road parking lot from 13 parking spaces up to 28. We are particularly thankful for the financial support of our members, a generous grant from Capstone Infrastructure and the ongoing partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Some of the other highlights over the past year include:

- Three new bridges constructed along the Wilmot Creek to help people traverse the trail along the creek while allowing a free flow of water back into the creek,
- An updated 2020 brochure and map that can help users find their way around the property as well as aiding the membership renewal process,
- The Municipality of Clarington has kindly provided wood chips which were dispersed over the past year to help with erosion issues,
- A new donation station erected in the Linton Tract to help defer the costs associated with maintenance and trail improvements, and
- Tree planting projects to help re-forest select sections of the property.



## TREE PLANTING AND INVASIVE SPECIES

“Someone is sitting  
in the shade today  
because someone  
planted a tree a  
long time ago”

-Warren Buffet

In the spring of 2020, the OCLT and its volunteers, with MNRF, planted 2,350 trees in some of the open sections of the property. Unfortunately, following the planting was a very dry spring and the mortality rate of the seedlings was quite high.

However, this spring, with the support of the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, the MNRF, the 50 million tree program, Ontario Power Generation and the Highway of Heroes Funding, we were able to plant another 1,500 trees! These trees have been planted in the northwest corner of the property near the Purple Trail. Locations can be seen on the map views below.

Regarding invasive species, members have reported Giant Hogweed along the Wilmot Creek. Seeds of giant hogweed can be transported long distances by moving water and in this situation, are coming from further upstream. The MNRF will be applying an herbicide along the creek corridor in mid-June this year to remove these dangerous plants.



# OCLT Board of Trustees



## THE 2020 OCLT BOARD OF TRUSTEES CARRIES ON...

- On April 20, 2021, the OCLT held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) through a virtual platform. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions on physical meetings, we have adapted and continue our monthly meetings virtually, while our trail maintenance operations continue with physical distancing.
- Below is the OCLT Board of Trustees that were re-elected at the AGM and continue to voluntarily dedicate their time to maintaining and improving the Orono Crown Lands:

1. Lindsay Champagne (Treasurer)
2. Adrian Green
3. Tim Hutchinson
4. Harry Linton
5. Larry Lunn (Chair)
6. Lauren McBride
7. Brian Thompson
8. Susan Aitken (Secretary)
9. John Windatt
10. Dirk Woudstra (Vice Chair)



- We thank all of you for your ongoing support of the Orono Crown Lands Trust and its mandate. We are fortunate to have access to this beautiful piece of land that allows us to connect with nature. For further information or to volunteer, you can contact us at [oronocrownlands7@gmail.com](mailto:oronocrownlands7@gmail.com)