

2024 Trails Festival  
June 1st 2024  
Save the date!

# The Trail Times

## Oxford County Trails Council

Fall 2023

### Oxford Thames River Trail.



Footfall on this beautiful trail increased in 2023 with both local and out-of-town visitors enjoying the fresh air, flora, fauna and information signs. Near ideal weather provided a boost to pollinative gardens on the sandhills section with a wide variety of indigenous wildflowers making their first showing. Succeeding years will see more intense flowering by a wider variety of species that will attract more insects and bird life.

***Mission accomplished!***

Regular maintenance work continues unabated, primarily mowing and trimming, all done by volunteers and supported by your donations. They are preparing the trail for the winter when it should remain accessible with care. Please do your part by taking your garbage home, cleaning up after your dog and observing our "on-leash" rule.

The advent of e-bikes can cause conflicts with trail walkers so we will be posting signs asking all cyclists to limit their speed on the trail to 10kph or less.



***Be respectful and keep the trail a happy and safe place for everyone.***



#### **Want to know more about trees?**

The W. Leslie Dickson Arboretum located at 715532 County Rd 4, between Woodstock and Innerkip has over 175 different species, a mix of native and ornamental trees and shrubs from around the world. This 4hectare site has free entry, ample parking and 1km of mowed trails.



**When using trails during the winter months** please use appropriate footwear, preferably insulated with high grip soles. Strap-on crampons improve grip on ice and snow and reduce the possibility of slip and fall.

#### ***Want to reduce your 2023 tax bill?***

***A donation to Oxford County Trails Council is fully tax deductible.***

***See our website and trail signs for details***

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

## More trail badges claimed.....

Proof positive of increased trails use is the demand for distance achievement badges. You, too, can claim an iron-on badge for walking at least 50km on our trails. Simply record your distance on a log sheet including the trails and distances walked and email it to [admin@oxfordcountytrailsCouncil.ca](mailto:admin@oxfordcountytrailsCouncil.ca). Badges are awarded at 50km, 100km levels and above and cost \$5.00 each for postage.



This dramatic image of a pair of **Baltimore Orioles** was captured by a local photographer on the Oxford Thames River Trail last June. What was the female telling the male?

This is a migratory species and a frequent summer visitor to southwestern Ontario where it nests and usually raises a single brood. The female builds and maintains the nest. After the chicks fledge Baltimore Orioles return to Mexico and South America for the winter.

Primarily an insect eater, those visiting and nesting on our trails will benefit from the establishment of our pollinative gardens.

## Donor help secures trail surfacing materials.

We maintain stockpiles of surfacing materials to keep the trails safe and attractive and repair flood erosion. Ingersoll-based, Paul Brown and Son Excavating Inc. delivered 50tonnes of coarse and fine materials in October to ensure a good supply is on hand for subsequent years.

The entire cost was covered by a single, private donor to whom Oxford County Trails Council extends sincere thanks.



### The Bonnie Dennison Memorial

Bonnie was a stalwart member of Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL) who successfully fought against a 17.5m tonne dump in Beachville. As you look over the pristine Thames River wetlands give thanks to Bonnie for helping to keep them that way.



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