

2025 Trails Festival  
June 7th 2025  
Save the date!

# The Trail Times

## Oxford County Trails Council

Fall – Winter 2024

### Celebrating Glen's life and legacy.

The clouds parted and the sun shone as Glen Burrill's family and friends met on the Oxford Thames River Trail on October 6th to dedicate a new bench in his memory. Many touching words were said as we reflected on Glen's life and accomplishments. A local bagpiper, with the Thames River as a backdrop, played "Amazing Grace" that signaled other volunteers and donors to continue building on Glen's legacy. That we will!



### Hodges Pond south bridge opens.

Under the guidance of Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, Paul Brown and Sons Excavating recently completed the installation of the south bridge over Cedar Creek on this increasingly popular trail. It's just part of the work needed to make it into an accessible loop trail including surface improvements, an information kiosk, possibly an interpretive centre and a larger carpark. This latest work builds on earlier projects that have improved the once derelict ecosystem into a wonderful habitat for aquatic species, birds, plants and mammals, both two and four legged.

**When using trails during the winter months** please use appropriate foot ware, 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 2024 CRA tax bill?***

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

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

***Also a really good way to invest your \$200 "Doug's Dollars"!!***

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



## President's Message.

Our 2023/24 Annual General Meeting (AGM), held at the Dance In Style studio on Juliana Drive on October 28th, put a wrap on our last financial year which, in some respects, was challenging but also very successful. Our finances remained robust despite purchasing more equipment and supplies for trail maintenance so that our volunteers can work safely and productively to provide all users with a positive and safe visit. Community generosity is key to our success as our day-to-day operations are not financed by our municipality. We only receive grants for specific projects.

The June 1st 2024 Trails Festival at four locations was popular but stretched our resources so we have decided to hold our June 7th 2025 festival at a single location that should prove much more convenient for visitors. Stay tuned for further news.

I am delighted that our board was refreshed at the AGM. Two, long-serving directors retired and were replaced by two new faces with a passion for Oxford trails and the skills necessary to maintain and build on our over two decades of success. The board slate is now as follows:

Dan Molinaro: President.

Alex Innes: Vice President.

Brad Hertner: Immediate Past President.

Ken Westcar: Secretary/Treasurer.

Meagan Lichti: Director, Healthy Built Communities.

Rebecca Wallace: Director, Healthy Built Communities.

Cher Sprague: Director at Large.

Walter Pfefferle: Director, Web and Social Media.

Chad Cornish: Director, Hodges Pond Liaison.

Bill Smeaton: Director at Large.

Rosaline Bruyns: Director at Large.

Dan Major: Director at Large.

Sharron and Richard Skevington: Directors at Large.

Dixie Westcar: Director at Large.

*What a great team!*

***Sincerely, Dan Molinaro, OCTC President.***



Image by Richard Skevington

The **Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly** is one of our commonest species. Its flight time is from mid-May until the end of August and it can be found in many habitats like gardens, woodlots, roadsides, streams and wetlands. Unlike the Monarch butterfly that migrates to Mexico, the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail overwinters here in Ontario as a chrysalis.

***Fall splendour  
in Beachville.***

From Canada to you

Image by Dixie Westcar



# *Oxford County Trails Council*

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