

The Trail Times

Oxford County Trails Council

Summer 2024



Glen Burrill 1941 –2024

For a decade or more, Glen was a friend of the Oxford Thames River Trail and everyone who enjoyed it. The trail was his passion and he spent countless hours grooming and keeping it safe while always being happy to stop and chat to users. He will be missed by his family, fellow volunteers and everyone who enjoyed the trail.

In commemoration, a bench will be installed at a bend in the Thames River that was Glen’s favourite place on the trail. If you would like to show your appreciation of Glen’s work, please refer to our President’s Message, overleaf.

Operation Lifesaver stresses rail crossing safety.

Visitors to the John Lawson Trail location of the OCTC Trails Festival on June 1st were surprised to find a heritage Ontario Southland Railway (OSR) locomotive parked on an adjacent track. It was there, complete with crew and literature handouts, to emphasize the need for safety where trails cross active railway tracks and complacency sometimes results in tragedy. The OSR volunteer crew were kept busy talking to festival visitors about critical safety issues and satisfied their curiosity of what a locomotive cab looks like and how the controls work. OCTC thanks the OSR management and staff for their dedication to safety and the funding of this important exhibit.



2024 Trails Festival

Oxford County Trails Council would like to thank the sponsors, donors and volunteers who worked to make this event a success. “Something for everyone” was our goal and it worked by bringing visitors to all four locations, each offering a different trails-related experience.

Our 2025 Trails Festival will be on June 7th at a single location. Save the date and watch for more details!



President's Message.

Oxford County Trails Council is managed and operated by a team of enthusiastic volunteers who dedicate their time and skills to the administrative and practical tasks necessary to provide trail users with a safe, healthy and educational experience, be they hikers or cyclists. A decade or so ago, Glen Burrill joined us as a volunteer and little did we know that he would dedicate a good part of life to maintaining and improving the Oxford Thames River Trail. Many of the great features on this trail are the result of Glen's work so he has left a unique and lasting legacy that our other volunteers will strive to follow.

Glen's contribution to the trail will be commemorated by a new metal bench installed at the bend in the Thames River where he often enjoyed his lunch. The bench from local supplier, Maglin Street Furniture, will replace the existing wooden bench and offer a place to relax and take in the best of Oxford's natural environment. Please read the plaque on the bench and think about how you can, in some way, care for the trail as much Glen did.

Some of you might wish to make a donation to the cost of the bench, as others have already done, in recognition of Glen's dedication to the trail. Donations over \$25 qualify for a CRA tax receipt but we are happy to receive whatever you deem appropriate.

You can send a donation in several ways:

- By e-transfer to: admin@oxfordcountycloudsouncil.ca
- Through Canada Helps where you will receive an instant tax receipt.
- By cheque to: Oxford County Trails Council, 21 Reeve St., Box 1614, Woodstock, ON N4S 7Y3

As mentioned previously we are a 100% volunteer operated charity and if you would like to join our team and contribute some time to trail maintenance please e-mail me at danmolinaro@rogers.com or our Secretary/ Treasurer at kenwestcar@sympatico.ca

Sincerely, Dan Molinaro, OCTC President.



Pollinative garden project update.

Visitors to the sandhills section of the Oxford Thames River Trail will have noticed the profusion of colour as the two pollinative garden sites established in 2022 start to mature with vibrant, indigenous wildflower displays that change throughout the growing season. Full maturity takes up to five years so expect to see a greater variety with time. Flying insects attracted to the pollinative gardens also attract birds with robust populations of swallows and martins being noted this year.



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