



The Lakefield Trail Newsletter

2021



Trail Offers Local Recreation in All Seasons

Twenty years have passed since the opening of the Lakefield Trail. During this time, an increasing number of residents and visitors have enjoyed the experience of walking or biking the Lakefield Trail.

With the COVID-19 restrictions of the past year, the Trail has offered a four-season escape from the lockdown/stay-at-home orders for an increasing number of people of all ages. Early morning walkers along the Trail by the river catch the mist rising over the water and observe families of waterfowl swimming at the water's edge. It is also a popular spot in warmer weather when people sit on the benches to enjoy their coffee or have lunch, watching the passing boats or just enjoying the scenery. Walks at the end of the day with the sun setting over the Trail are always breathtaking. The plowed Trail in the winter provides another enjoyable perspective as it winds its way through the village.

The volunteers of the Lakefield Stewardship Committee have maintained and enhanced the Trail with the addition of benches, trees and gardens, more directional signage as well as hosting various seasonal activities. We are very fortunate to have the Trail. It is especially appreciated during this past year when we have been encouraged to stay local.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2020 has been a year like no other in our lifetime. This was the year we thought we would be celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Lakefield Trail. Instead, with no night hikes or nature walks, no major work days, paddle days or gatherings, we stayed home to "flatten the curve."

This was a year where a virus exposed major flaws in society worldwide. The pandemic caused an unprecedented increase in the number of people using the Trail. They "social distanced" and often had few or no amenities available to them, depending on our lockdown status. 2021 seems to be a continuation of last year with the added hope of going back to "normal" with vaccinations. Hopefully, this year we will be able to have some of our usual activities.

"See you on the trail!"

- Bruce Bellchambers



How the Lakefield Trail Began 20 Years Ago



The year 2000 was doubly significant in the Village of Lakefield: it was the dawn of a new millennium as well as being Lakefield's 125th Anniversary.

To mark the significance of the year, in 1998 the Council of the Village of Lakefield appointed a Special Events Committee (SEC) that oversaw the planning and coordination of several events and activities to be enjoyed by residents and tourists of all ages. The main project the SEC oversaw was the development of a Lakefield trail network 5.5 km in length. The project budget was \$655,000 and included major shoreline restoration work along Water Street between the Lakefield Marina and the bridge.

The trail was constructed with an asphalt surface in most areas and crushed limestone in the more environmentally sensitive areas. Information kiosks, gazebos, benches, trees, historical information and directional signage were envisioned along the trail. The Lakefield Trail is linked to the Trans Canada Trail (now called The Great Trail) via the Rotary Trail along River Road to downtown Peterborough.

The Government of Canada committed one-third matching funds totaling \$182,161. Sizeable donations were received from several foundations. These funds were used to commission Basterfield and Associates to do renderings of various parts of the Trail, as envisioned by the committee. Many private citizens, corporations, community organizations and businesses donated.

The Village of Lakefield committed to one-third of the costs by providing in-kind donations of staff time and equipment for the construction of the Trail.

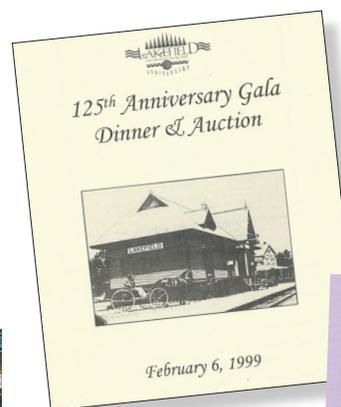
The remaining third of the cost of the Trail needed to come from the community. The Fundraising Sub-Committee went to work approaching businesses and individuals for donations and to host numerous fundraising events. It was incredible to watch this become a full-fledged "community" project.

Seniors, schools, service clubs, churches, the Royal Canadian Legion, neighbourhoods and more came together to address fundraising and build support for such a good cause.

Just a few of the fundraising highlights were the 125th Anniversary Gala Dinner & Auction, the Summer Scapes Home and Garden Tour, Trail-a-thons involving all the schools and the amazing "Sale of the Century" yard sales in Winfield Shores.

There was no doubt that the Lakefield Millennium Trail Project brought the whole community together!

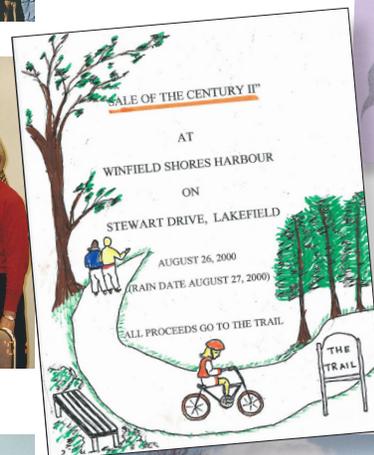
After the official opening on December 19, 2000, the Lakefield Trail Stewardship Committee was formed to carry on organizing fundraising activities for Trail maintenance and enhancements, to promote natural environment education and recreational activities and to promote all local and area trails.



Official Trail opening, December 19, 2000



Lakefield Trail Sub-Committee



Opening Ceremony, Lakefield Beach



Trail Fundraising Sub-Committee



Trail-a-thon

Trail Maintenance

A walk along the Lakefield Trail leads past some well-maintained gardens that enhance the beauty of the village and provide a sensory experience for all who pass by.

One such garden is located on both sides of the Service Ontario building. This unique native plant garden includes such plants as daylilies, bearberry, Kentucky coffee tree, chokecherry, wild plum, wild roses, Echinacea, and Saskatoon berry.

The Lakefield Trail Committee is responsible for planting and maintaining this garden. On a regular basis they mulch, weed and prune the plants in order to keep ahead of invasive species such as dog-strangling vine and bindweed. Spring and fall, the committee, along with community volunteers, inspects and cleans up the Trail, removing garbage and overhanging branches.

After 20 years of use, the boardwalk along the river on Water Street is beginning to show its age. This year a group of volunteers brought out their drills and hammers and spent a day replacing boards that were either broken or showing signs of rot. This is an ongoing project that will eventually result in the replacement of all the boards on the boardwalk.



For several years, there has been a rope barrier along the Water Street section of the trail meant to discourage the geese from coming on to the trail to feed on the grass. The goose droppings have occasionally made this section of the trail unpleasant to walk on. An improved version of this barrier was installed this past year by volunteers and it has proven to be an effective goose deterrent.



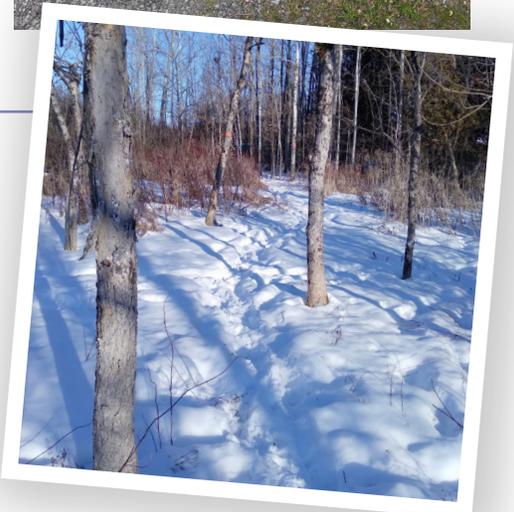
SELWYN TRAIL TALK

2020 and the start of 2021 have seen incredible increase in the use and popularity of the wonderful Selwyn trail systems. Most residents and some visitors to the area have taken advantage to get fresh air and exercise by walking, jogging and riding these trails during these challenging times.

Over the next few years, the trails network in our municipality will be added to and maintenance work will continue to make sure the existing trails are accessible to all for many years to come.

The Ennismore Waterfront trail system is being remapped and rerouted to protect the wetlands better and to make these trails easier to follow and more accessible. New GPS technology will be used to map out all the branches and create new routes and route maps. The 20-year-old boardwalk requires repair and replacement as part of wetland rerouting.

The completed portion of the Bridgenorth to Peterborough Trail continues to be very well used. Work on the final two sections continues with all of the Environmental Impact Study work being completed. Once the planning and funding has been completed, the work



Smith St. extension - before

to complete the connection for Selwyn, Peterborough and the Canadian Great Trail which this will provide will be completed.

In Lakefield, a couple of projects are planned for this year. The Township and the Lakefield Trail Stewardship Committee will be taking on significant repair and replacement work on the 20-year-old waterfront trail. At the same time, a new trail is being planned and laid out to connect the western end of Smith Street to Young's Point Road via a 600- to 700-metre accessible trail featuring a bridge over Ray's Creek.

Get out and enjoy all the trails in Selwyn! Watch for announcements as these exciting projects progress.

trail heroes HIKE GUIDES

Each year, the Lakefield Trail Committee usually sponsors two walks: a spring hike and a winter night hike coinciding with Selwyn's PolarFest celebration. Over the years, we have been fortunate to enlist very capable walk leaders. We are highlighting a few of them as Trail Heroes this year: Tracy and Matt Logan, Sheila and Derek Potter, and Drew Monkman. Others who have led walks for us include Kim and Hugh Dobson, Mary Marsden, Ralph and Carol Ingleton, Tony Bigg, and Gabby Nichols. Thank you to this group of enthusiastic nature lovers! We are all looking forward to guided trail walks beginning again when COVID is history.



Tracy and Matt Logan

Tracy and Matt lived in Lakefield for many years and were involved with the Lakefield Trail. Matt grew up in Lakefield and returned years later with Tracy to start a tree care service. They have operated Logan Tree Experts for 14 years in the area.

Tracy has worked in the area as an ecologist, horticulturist and now, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist® for Logan Tree Experts. She has enjoyed sharing her knowledge and love of nature by leading many spring and winter nature hikes.

A highlight of the trail for Matt, also a Master Arborist, is the row of ash trees along Water Street. Matt helped plant these trees while working summers at Lakefield Public Works. Logan Tree Experts has been treating these beautiful specimens to protect them from the emerald ash borer and Matt and Tracy have volunteered their crew to prune the trees.

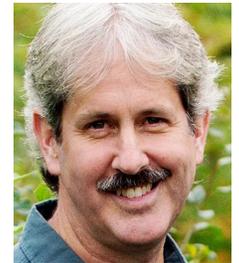


Drew Monkman

Drew Monkman is an avid lifelong naturalist who regularly authors the "Our Changing Seasons" column in the Peterborough Examiner. He has written a number of books for both adults and children.

Drew is a member and past-president of the Peterborough Field Naturalists and belongs to several local environmental groups.

As a teacher, Drew shared his deep interest in the workings of the natural world with his students. He is a well-recognized and popular Peterborough field trip leader who builds enthusiasm in walk participants. Drew says, "I love the mix of different habitat types that the Trail offers. With marsh, river, woodland, field, and magnificent gardens, there are always species of interest to catch your attention."



Sheila and Derek Potter

Sheila began her career as a biologist and, although fascinated by most creatures, she has a particular love for the turtles that she studied in Algonquin Park nearly 30 years ago. Sheila is now a teacher, and she and husband Derek spend a good deal of their time wandering through the bush behind their home, looking for birds and other wildlife. Sheila is passionate about connecting people - small people in particular - to nature through hikes, stories and games.

Derek has worked as a biologist since the early '90s, studying reptiles and amphibians, small mammals, deer, polar bears and black bears. Derek is especially fond of black bears and has been known to track them through the bush, as well as to crawl into their dens with them. He is passionate about teaching respect for wildlife and sharing his extensive knowledge of natural history.

Lakefield Trail Photo Contest

Help us celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Lakefield Trail by submitting your photos taken with at least one foot on the Trail!

To submit your photographs:

- E-mail submissions to lakefieldtrailphotocontest@gmail.com. If the files are large, please send via separate emails, one at a time.
- Photographs must be submitted as jpeg/jpg files of at least 2 MB and less than 10 MB, at least 300 dpi.
- Photographs must be accompanied by the photographer's name (or a parent/guardian's name) and an e-mail address where we can reach you.

Everyone is eligible and can enter up to five photos. Photographs must be taken during the contest period (Feb 1, 2021 to Dec 31, 2021). Winning photographs will be selected in January 2022.

Please see full contest rules on the Lakefield Trail facebook page and our website. By submitting photographs, entrants agree to the distribution and use of images by the Lakefield Trail Stewardship Committee. Entrants take responsibility for obtaining consent for photography and for distribution of images of any persons in images.



Township of Selwyn,
Parks and Recreation Department
705-292-9507 ext 243

Recreation@selwintownship.ca

Trail information available at:
www.lakefieldtrail.ca

When hiking, a winning hiker attitude includes: safety, respect, and relaxation. Leave the Trail cleaner than you found it. Carry out all litter. Keep pets leashed.