



# The Lakefield Trail Newsletter

*We respectfully acknowledge that the Lakefield Trail is on the treaty and traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg. We offer our gratitude to the First Peoples for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we honour those teachings.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2023 will be the 25th year I have volunteered on the Lakefield Trail Committee and the first time that I can say that there is a new section of trail. Selwyn Township extended sewer lines to Lakefield South and the finished section between Smith and Bridge Street with limestone screenings. This section of the Trail will eventually join with future trails in the new subdivision. Our committee planted 15 trees on the west side of the Trail and 3 berry patches on the east side.

Another positive project was the rehabilitation of the north half of Water Street. Accurex has completed an amazing job fitting a roadway, trail and boat launch into a small space. They have created both an inviting and safe section of the Trail for all who walk along the river. I hope you take the time to see these improvements first hand. Work on the south half of Water Street begins this spring.

Currently, plans are to have the Trail end abruptly, 65 metres short of the sidewalk at the Bridge Street intersection. I hope that after the new Selwyn township council members see the connectivity at the north end of Water Street that they will find a way to connect the Trail to the sidewalk at Bridge Street.

"See you on the trail!"

- Bruce Bellchambers

## Bridge/Smith Trail Section Completed

This fall saw the completion of a new section of the Lakefield Trail from the western end of Smith St. to Bridge St. Selwyn Township installed water and sewer infrastructure in the area to service the future Lakefield South development. Overlaying this infrastructure, the Township installed a 3m wide strip of limestone screenings edged with grass. Armor stones and gates were placed at each end to block motorized vehicular traffic.



When this infrastructure work had been completed, a team of six Trail volunteers spent a hot, humid fall morning planting a variety of tree and bush species. Fifteen serviceberry, maple, sycamore, black cherry, burr oak, catalpa, Kentucky coffee, apple and cherry trees were planted accompanied by 30 blueberry, blackberry and currant bushes. As we dug holes, we discovered a very solid layer of dirt and gravelly stone awaited us. Our hard work was rewarded with delicious butter tarts provided by Fran Gagne! They were most welcome.

This new section of Trail complements the existing Trail around Hague Point and the Lakefield beach. In the longer term, it will connect with Trails planned for the Lakefield South development.



# Water Street Rehabilitation



*Roadway and trail before reconstruction began.*



*Finished roadway, curbs, guttering and trail.*

This year has seen significant changes to Water Street as the planned rehabilitation of the street got underway. The first phase of the project from Concession Street to just before Reid Street has been completed including:

- New watermain and storm water drainage,
- Laying down of the first lift of the roadway as well as installing curbs and gutters,
- Defined parking beside boat launch, lay-by parking beside St. Paul's Church,
- New sidewalk in front of the condos with replacement of existing sidewalk up to King Street, and
- Boat launch improvements with a lay-by for securing boats.

As part of the consultation process leading up to the start of work on the street, the Lakefield Trail Committee (LTC) expressed concern about potential disruption of access to the Trail. Another major concern was the potential impact of construction on the trees, benches and shade shelter which are located close to the road. In response to these concerns, Selwyn Township informed the public through the Township website that access to sections of the Lakefield Trail would be closed during construction phases and signage would be posted when sections were not accessible. There were in fact some days during the construction period where sections of the Trail were inaccessible but, on the whole, the Trail continued to see regular use.

Regarding the trees and benches, the Township indicated that Lakefield Trail memorial trees, benches and shade shelter would be maintained - some of these amenities might be temporarily inaccessible or re-located during construction periods. Trees potentially affected by construction would be assessed and monitored by a licensed arborist. Members of the LTC were regularly consulted when potential issues arose around this. The impact on the health of the trees will remain a major focus for the LTC as work resumes in the spring of 2023.

The rehabilitation of Water Street will resume in spring of 2023 and will continue throughout the summer. As was the case in 2022, there will continue to be disruptions to access to parts of the Trail during the summer.



*Rebuilt boat launch and parking.*

## upcoming TRAIL EVENTS

- **Trail Sponsored Public Skating**  
Lakefield Arena, March 11, 2023
- **Trail Work Day**  
Saturday, April 22, 2023, 9 am  
Meet at the shade shelter, Water St.
- **Earth Day Hike** Sunday, April 23  
Meet at the Marshland Centre
- **Native Plant Garden Day**  
Saturday, May 13, 2023, 9 am  
Meet at the Service Ontario building, Water St.
- **Family Paddle Day**  
Thursday, June 22, 2023, 5:30 pm  
Rain date - Monday, June 26, 5:30 pm  
Meet at Lakefield Beach, Hague Pt
- **Summer Garden Work Days**  
Three Wednesday evenings at 6 pm:  
June 14, July 19 and August 16.  
Meet at the Service Ontario building, Water St.
- **Booth at Lakefield Sidewalk Sale**  
Saturday, August 12, 2023
- **PolarFest Night Hike**  
Friday, February 2, 2024  
Meet at the Marshland Centre

Phase 2 of the project will include:

- Water Street (from Reid Street to Bridge Street):
- New watermain and storm water drainage,
- New roadway (1st lift) and curb and gutter,
- Designated parking at bridge opposite the church and the Canoe and Paddle restaurant and,
- Replacement of existing sidewalk.

The much anticipated end of the project will be Phase 3 which will take place in spring 2024 to July 1, 2024. This phase will include:

- All final adjustments and final lift of asphalt, and
- Site works and landscaping along Water, Reid and King Streets.

Once the rehabilitation work has been completed, Water Street will be a much more attractive roadway that will enhance the beauty of Lakefield as well as being a safer street for pedestrians. With Lakefield Trail along beside Water Street, our hope is that the Trail will be even more accessible to both local residents and visitors.

# Ongoing Maintenance of Trails and Infrastructure

To appreciate the magnitude of the maintenance task, readers should look at the Trail interactive map posted on the Selwyn Township website at [www.selwyntownship.ca/en/discover-our-township/Lakefield-Trail-Map.aspx](http://www.selwyntownship.ca/en/discover-our-township/Lakefield-Trail-Map.aspx). This map depicts all trees, benches and signs located on the Trail.

Trail enhancement and maintenance activities continue unabated from spring through to autumn including:

- Spreading limestone screenings along the Trail,
- Annual mulching and weeding trees and gardens. Weeding starts in the spring followed by monthly weeding over the summer, especially to control the growth of two significant invasive species: bindweed and dog strangling vine,
- Removing dead or diseased trees, and planting appropriate native species as replacements. There are a total of 102 memorial trees along the Trail,
- Arranging for the biannual inoculation of selected ash trees to avoid decimation by the emerald ash borer,
- Installing and maintaining the Trail's 60 benches, regularly refreshing and weeding the underlying limestone screenings,
- Replacing broken and/or rotting boards in the boardwalk along the Water Street section, and
- Developing and arranging installation of interpretive and directional signs.



Larger periodic activities include:

- Repairing the shade shelter on Water Street to replace rotten timber. This year, a fire was set in the shelter resulting in burnt flower box timber. This box was rebuilt. We have repainted and reroofed the shelter.
- The boardwalk along Water Street is aging with need of significant remediation.

We appreciate the ongoing assistance provided by the crew from the Selwyn Township Parks and Recreation department who help with bench installation and removal of bagged weeds.

We also thank volunteers who come out to help us. If you would like to volunteer on either an occasional or a regular basis, please contact [Recreation@selwyntownship.ca](mailto:Recreation@selwyntownship.ca).

## Hague Point Indigenous Site



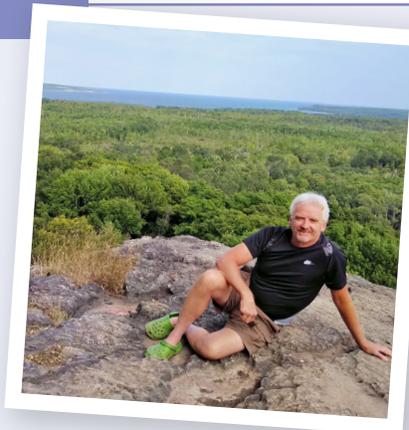
The Lakefield Trail Stewardship Committee was honoured to collaborate with local Indigenous community members in the development of a site along the Lakefield Trail to recognize, honour and memorialize that this land lies within the ancestral territory of the Michi Saagic People of the Curve Lake First Nation. Working with Mae Whetung-Derrick of the Curve Lake First Nation and other First Nation community members, the Trail Committee collaborated to develop and install an interpretive sign recognizing Moses and Nellie Marsden as the first Indigenous family in Lakefield. The sign and its underlying QR text outline the background and some of the accomplishments of Moses Marsden. Complementing the sign at the Hague Point site overlooking Lake Katchewanooka are a bench and a memorial tree purchased by Jim Marsden to commemorate the Marsden family.

Another critical component at the site is the eye-catching Grandfather Stone at the water's edge conceived and installed thanks to the Vintage Lakefield project led by John Millage. This lovely granite stone was donated by Kerri Doughty of Doughty Aggregates. The engraving on the Grandfather Stone was the contribution of Derrick Millage.

## trail hero DAVE HYLAND

Dave Hyland was truly a local hero when it came to the support that he gave to the Lakefield Trail Stewardship Committee. In the past, the Committee has approached Dave for advice on tree care. This would often lead to Dave pruning the tree, grinding the stump or dropping off mulch. Dave always told us his goal was to plant more trees than he had to remove.

The Lakefield Trail Committee wishes to extend deepest condolences to Dave's wife, Judy, and the rest of Dave's family. The Committee plans to plant a memorial tree on the Trail in Dave's honour this spring.



## SELWYN TRAILTALK

Trails in Selwyn continue to expand and are very well used throughout the Township.

### SMITH WARD

In Smith Ward, the Bridgenorth to Peterborough trail section between 5th Line and Lindsay Road has been so well used since it was completed five years ago that Township staff did a major surface touch-up and regrading of it in 2022.

The plans for phase 2 and 3 to connect Bridgenorth and Peterborough (to the Great Canadian Trail at Jackson's Creek) are still in the works with the Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) completed in 2020. The EIS report contains all the recommendations for trail construction and any necessary environmental requirements to construct this trail.

Funding and partnerships are being sought for this two-phase project which is projected to cost more than \$1 million.

### ENNISMORE WATERFRONT TRAILS

Ennismore Waterfront Trails (EWT) underwent significant maintenance in 2020.

The boardwalk system still needs to be reconfigured and repaired through the cedar forest near Ennis Road. This work is scheduled for the spring and summer of 2023. Once the rerouting of the blue trail section is complete (undertaken to reduce the environmental impact on the wetlands of the EWT and improve the safe and enjoyable use of the trails), all new signage and trail maps/markings will be updated.

Over the past five years, Fleming College's forestry program has completed forest management measures. Forest management is necessary throughout the EWT forests for the health and well-being of the forest and all the species that grow within the EWT. The students will continue to remove unhealthy trees and thin out the smaller trees within the red and white pine forest of the EWT.

### LAKEFIELD

Trail enhancements to Water Street and the Smith/Bridge connection have been described on the cover page of this newsletter.



## 2022 Spring Hike led by Sheila Potter

It was on a cold, overcast spring day in late April that 30 hardy souls gathered at the Marshland Centre for a spring hike with the ever-popular hike leader Sheila Potter. The morning of the hike included light rain with a trace of snow but the rain let up as we gathered. Sheila came equipped with several bird nests, a tortoise shell, a collection of small chocolate bars and hand painted cards of birds. The latter two items were designated as prizes for those clever enough to answer questions that she posed.

Sheila warmed up the audience by discussing the bird nests, spoke of the local turtle population and identified the best ways to help turtles cross a road. She also demonstrated two applications she uses on her phone, Merlin and iNaturalist, to help identify birds and log the animals, birds, and plants that she observes. Using Merlin, she played several bird songs and invited the audience to identify the call.

As we hiked around Hague Point, we saw red-winged blackbirds, swallows (catching midges), a heron and a mute swan among other bird species. We observed beaver activity along the Trail, a giant burl and many other features of the natural world on our doorstep. Thanks to Sheila, each of us learned something new on the walk. On our return to the Marshland Centre, we were treated to delicious cupcakes. As we left the site, the rain resumed in earnest. It was perfect timing!



### KAWARTHA LAND TRUST

The Township is continually looking for opportunities to add to and expand our trail networks.

The Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) has made several proposals to create connecting trails between Burleigh Falls, Young's Point and Selwyn. Primarily, these trails would connect the KLT properties and trails within settlement areas in Selwyn.

Watch for exciting announcements and developments around these trail initiatives.



KAWARTHA LAND TRUST  
Protecting the land you love.



Township of Selwyn,  
Parks and Recreation Department  
705-292-9507 ext 243  
Recreation@selwintownship.ca

Trail information available at:  
[www.lakefieldtrail.ca](http://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.*