

## Newsletter May 2023

### More news!

**Provincial lands project:** We're delighted to report that our goal to have the 1300 acres owned by Infrastructure Ontario transferred for trails and conservation purposes has been achieved!

We were pleased and proud to be at the announcement of a new provincial park on April 22 (a soggy day). Attended by Ministers Peter Bethlenfalvy and Dave Piccini, Mayor Dave Barton as well as mayors from the surrounding area, representatives of Nature Conservancy of Canada, TRCA, the Schad Foundation and a welcoming crowd of umbrellas. A steering committee has been formed and has started the work of planning what this park will be and what will be needed to make that happen. Members of this committee include Ontario Parks, Mayor Dave Barton, TRCA and LSRCA representatives, Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Schad Foundation as well as GDA. The representatives chosen to be part of the committee give us hope that this park will be as we envisioned, with a heavy emphasis on land conservation.



Above: John McCutcheon, Brian Buckles, masterminds of the project



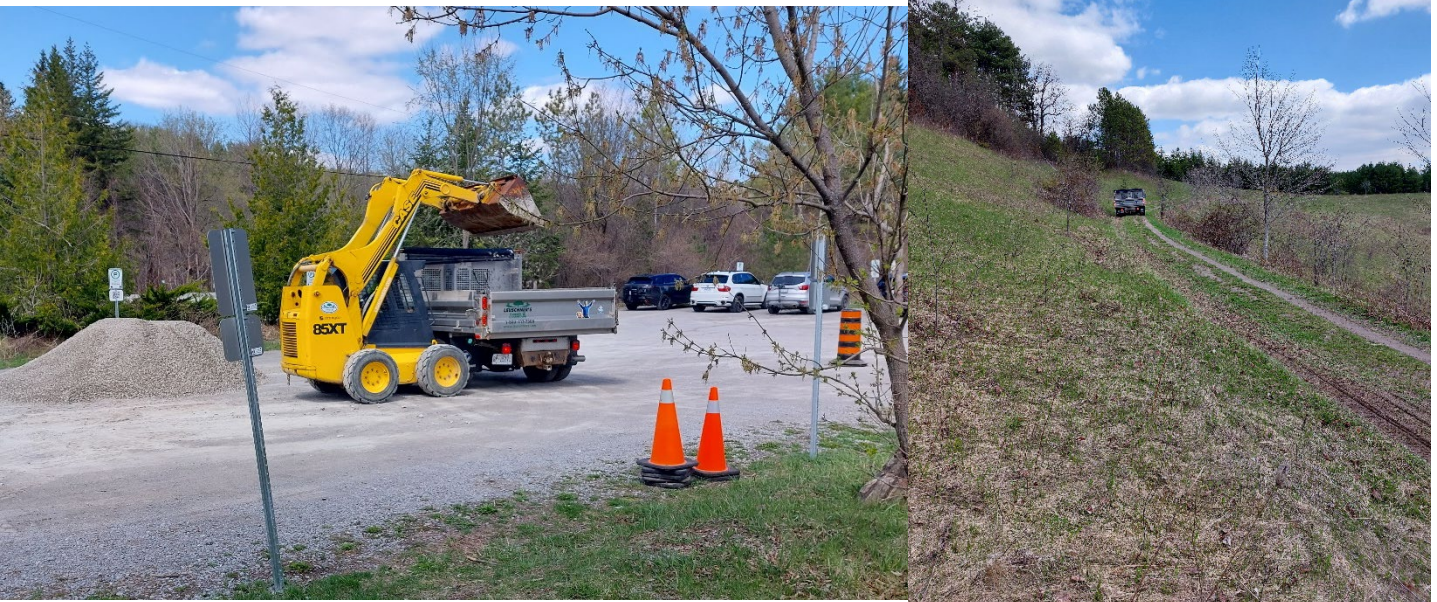
A discussion about this park took place a week later on TVO's The Agenda, you can watch the 1 hour episode here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXHIGIHwMNw>

**Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve:** We have been meeting regularly with the lawyer we have retained to explore how we may play a role in protecting these lands. It is a fluid process, where we must be attuned to all information available about these lands, who might be doing what, and when. We appreciate the excellent support we have received in this regard through our partners with Stop Sprawl Durham. Communication amongst various interested groups and stakeholders is vital at this time. We will provide an update when we make a decision to move ahead.

**From conservation to chainsaws:** We partnered with the Township of Uxbridge to offer chainsaw safety training a couple of weeks ago and a few more of you stepped forward. Ranald Mackay sends out a spreadsheet of fallen trees from time to time and there are now about 25 trained volunteers on that list, some of whom operate local businesses related to the trails, some who are members of partner trail user groups, some are just interested in helping out.

Most of the trails are in pretty good shape but many small saplings, bent by the heavy snows this past winter are leaning over the trail. Even if you haven't received chainsaw training you can help with these saplings - carry a small handsaw or loppers when you are out for a walk and remove any low over-hanging saplings you come across.

**Federal grant:** The grant we received from the federal government last fall allowed us to purchase equipment and replace two aging boardwalks along the TransCanada Trail with a more sustainable trail surface. We completed one trail section but had to leave the second section unfinished when winter weather intervened. Last Friday, thanks to GDA volunteer Ranald Mackay and contractor Dave Leuschner the work was completed in just one day. This was a challenging job requiring specialized equipment. Gravel was delivered to the Aggregate Pit parking lot on the 6<sup>th</sup> Concession and then carried in more than a mile along the trail with small trucks. The trail is now open and improved, come check it out down near post G19.



**Upcoming projects: May 4 - Removal of a damaged elevated boardwalk in Glen Major Forest.**  
Coordinated by DMBA/John Fisher 416-709-2611

Meet at 3 Rocks Parking lot, 1120 Concession 7 at Uxbridge Pickering Town Line. Two shifts 1pm and 5pm, or when you can make it. Ending around 8pm, stay as short or as long as you want, all welcome  
Project: Dismantling and removing elevated boardwalk in Glen Major Forest. Please wear closed-toed shoes, work gloves and long pants. Various jobs are part of this project and some of them may require work boots, protective glasses and ear protection, please bring them if you own them. Limited number of safety glasses and ear protection available to use.  
Depending on how long you are joining us you may want to bring a water bottle and snack.



A photo of the elevated boardwalk, located not far from the bridge along the Townline trail near post G12.

**Bridge replacement:** The bridge will be replaced sometime this spring with funds from GDA, DMBA, the Trail Sustainability fund (parking fees) and a grant from TransCanada Trail. TRCA will complete the work.

**May 13:** Join North Durham Nature on May 13 to pull garlic mustard - a highly invasive plant - and enjoy the wildflowers in North Walker Woods (best kept secret – wildflowers on that property are spectacular). Sign up online here:  
<http://www.northdurhamnature.com/>

**Mowing** – we'll leave the birds to nest in May and plan to mow in June. Stay tuned for opportunities to push our fabulous lightweight new mowers.



Happy Spring and thanks everyone for your interest, your support and your words of encouragement. It's been a busy year.