



## **DUFFERIN OUTDOOR RECREATION ADVISORY TEAM MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

The Committee met at 7:00 pm at W & M Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre Street, Orangeville ON.

**Members Present:** Art Ash, Dufferin Rooftop Recreational Riders Association  
Andrew Bell, Toronto Orienteering Club  
Andy Bite, Toronto and North York Hunt  
Dave Dingledein, Mansfield Outdoor Centre  
Dave Ernest, Dufferin-Grey ATV Club  
Christine Gracey, Eglinton and Caledon Hounds  
Dennis Leveque, Dufferin North Peel Anglers and Hunters  
Tani Mogensen, Public Member  
Chris Salhany, Mansfield Outdoor Centre  
Zen Slipenkyi, Alliston & District, Dufferin Drift Busters and Orangeville Snowmobile Clubs  
Darryn Stevenson, Public Member  
Sue Timbers, Ontario Competitive Trail Riding Association  
Sonja Wyss, Ontario Trail Riders Association  
Johnny Yeaman, Team Van Go

**Members Absent:** Iza Altmid, Mycological Society of Toronto  
Sheri Potter Rumball, Chesley Saddle Club  
Luis Simoes, 1849 Lorne Scots Orangeville Army Cadets  
Peter Westlake, Base Borden Army Cadets

**Staff Present:** Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer  
Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager  
Michelle Kratky, Forest Assistant  
Rebecca Whelan, Deputy Clerk

The Director of Public Works/County Engineer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

The Director of Public Works/County Engineer shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

## **DISCUSSION**

1. DUFFERIN OUTDOOR RECREATION ADVISORY TEAM – March 5, 2024 – ITEM #1  
Introductions

Members of the Team introduced themselves and the organization that they represent.

2. DUFFERIN OUTDOOR RECREATION ADVISORY TEAM – March 5, 2024 – ITEM #2  
Dufferin County Forest & Dufferin Rail Trail

Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager, provided an overview of the County Forest and Rail Trail. The presentation highlighted some of the upcoming projects for the year, including:

- Development of historical signs for the County Forest and Rail Trail
- Installation of portable toilets at Mono Tract and Rail Trail
- Installation of garbage receptacles at Main Tract
- Completion of resurfacing of the Rail Trail
- Installation of permitted/prohibited uses signs along the Rail Trail

The Team asked staff if it would be possible to work with the Town of Orangeville to ensure consistency between the Orangeville and Dufferin portions of the Rail Trail. The Committee also discussed what could be done to prevent Rail Trail gates from being forced open. Staff are planning to do additional patrols.

3. DUFFERIN OUTDOOR RECREATION ADVISORY TEAM – March 5, 2024 – ITEM #3  
Invasive Species Management Plan Implementation

Michelle Kratky, Forest Assistant, provided an overview of the Invasive Species Management Plan. The presentation focused on invasive plant species of concern in the County Forest. Staff are currently monitoring for:

- Autumn olive
- Black locust
- Common (European) buckthorn
- Creeping bellflower
- Dog-strangling vine
- Garlic mustard
- Glossy buckthorn
- Goutweed
- Greater celandine
- Honeysuckle species (non-native)
- Japanese knotweed
- Lily of the valley

- Multiflora rose
- Norway maple
- Periwinkle
- Scots pine
- Wild chervil
- Wild parsnip

Staff are undertaking an inventory to track locations and spread of invasive plants. Where appropriate, control measures are being implemented and staff are monitoring the outcomes. Staff are also working on education materials for the public.

Recreational groups can help control the spread of invasive plant species by:

- Volunteering at one of the invasive species removal events
  - June 1 (Mono Tract)
  - July 13 (Main Tract)
  - August 17 (Main Tract)
- Cleaning gear and animals before coming to the County Forest
- Reporting sighting of invasive plants using iNaturalist
- Never dumping yard waste in a natural area
- Keeping invasive plants out of yards and gardens

Staff will provide more information about the volunteer events, as well as resources on invasive plants, that recreational groups can share through their channels.

The Team asked about invasive plants along the Rail Trail, as recreational users have noticed giant hogweed in the area. Currently, staff are focusing on wild parsnip and phragmites but they are monitoring for other invasive species.

There was a discussion about collaborating with other municipalities that users might be travelling from (i.e. Grey County or Simcoe County where they have trails that connect with Dufferin's) so that users are aware of alerts about invasive species in all areas. This would also help ensure users are educated about the importance of cleaning their gear.

#### 4. DUFFERIN OUTDOOR RECREATION ADVISORY TEAM – March 5, 2024 – ITEM #4 Oak Wilt Response Plan

Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager, provided an overview of the County Forest Oak Wilt Response Plan. Oak wilt is an invasive disease that can kill red oak in as little as 30 days. The disease is spread through human movement of untreated wood products (firewood), sap beetles, and root grafts.

Oak wilt can be identified by browning that starts at leaf edge and moves towards the leaf centre.

To help prevent the spread of oak wilt:

- Don't move firewood
- Don't cut, prune, or damage oak trees from April 1 to July 31.

5. DUFFERIN OUTDOOR RECREATION ADVISORY TEAM – March 5, 2024 – ITEM #5  
Main Tract Trail Mapping

The Team participated in a discussion regarding improving the design of the Main Tract trail map. Staff have started updating the map to ensure trails run side by side instead of overlapping. Trails not currently on the map will be added.

Suggestions to improve the design of the map include:

- Change the colours (i.e. no green on green) to improve accessibility
- Add a digital interface where users can change the colours themselves or turn trails on/off
- Keep the reference points with the numbers
- Mark where trails continue onto neighbouring properties
- Include markers like gates, fenceposts, signage, and parking lots as they are recognizable for users
- Make the map available as a digital file (through apps like Avenza or Mapgears)
- Use different types of lines (solid, dotted, dashes) to distinguish between the various trails
- List level of difficulty on the map. This would involve further conversations to define the criteria.
- Consider making map consistent with maps of adjoining properties.
- Emphasize who has the right of way on trails. This involves continued education.
- Johnny Yeaman offered to meet with staff to review the mapping
- Toronto Orienteering Club has re-mapped the Main Tract and would be happy to compare notes.

A draft of the map will be circulated to the Team so that members who are familiar with the Main Tract can mark any inaccuracies that they are aware of.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

**Next Meeting:** To be confirmed