

Wingham Community Trail Committee Report

TO: Reeve Vincent and Council, Township of North Huron
FROM: Wingham Community Trail Committee
DATE: December 5, 2016
SUBJECT: Volunteer Activities Wingham Community Trail/Park in 2016

PURPOSE:

To provide council with an overview of the Trail Committee's activities in 2016

BACKGROUND:

On December 15, 2014 the Trail Committee made a presentation to council on the work that we have been doing to assist the municipality to maintain the Wingham Trail and Ecological Park. At that meeting council requested the Trail Committee provide Council with an update on our activities on an annual basis.

This report outlines the work that the Trail committee has undertaken to assist the Recreation and Works Department to maintain the Trail/Park.

WINGHAM COMMUNITY TRAIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The Wingham Trail Committee is comprised of the following people:

Hayley Murray

Terry Deyell

Sharon Weber

Inge Wraith

Char Breitmaier

Murray Ritsema

Mike Smolenaars

Phil Beard

Norm Anger: installs plaques on the Bridge of Memories for the committee

2016 Activities:

The Trail Committee met with staff from North Huron's Works and Recreation Department back in April to identify work that needed to be done in the park and along the trail. The Trail Committee agreed to help the Recreation and Works Departments with work that they did not have time/resources to undertake. The Trail committee was able to accomplish the following work in 2016: (the attached map of the Trail/Park outlines the areas where work was undertaken by the Trail Committee in 2016).

1. **Trail Extension to Public School: Weeding/Tree Protectors:** Burdocks were removed from the area where the wildflowers were planted in 2015. Tree protectors were placed around all of the trees planted at the storm water pond.

2. **Trail to Minnie Street:** Stone dust was added around the erosion control strips on the section of trail that goes from the parking lot down to Minnie Street.
3. **Butterfly Garden/Shrub Bed under Railway Bridge:** Woodchips were placed in the Butterfly Garden and in the fall dead plants were removed. Manitoba Maple and Virginia Creeper were removed from the wildflower bed located under the bridge.
4. **Cedar Rail Fence section:** Himalayan Balsalm is an invasive plant that is growing along sections of the trail. One of our members, Sharon Weber worked over the summer to remove this plant from growing along the cedar rail fence section of the trail.
5. **Entrance Garden:** Manitoba Maple and Virginia Creeper were removed from the Entrance Garden. The shrubs were pruned and the bed was weeded.
6. **Boat Launch Area:** The shrub bed located beside the Boat launch was weeded by the committee to prevent vines and bindweed from shading out the shrubs that were planted there.
7. **Entrance Garden to Trailer Park:** Manitoba Maple were removed from this section of the trail to prevent them from displacing and crowding out the shrubs and other trees that had been planted there.
8. **Berm Section of the Trail:** The erosion control strips were re seated and additional stone dust was placed around them to prevent the erosion of the sloped section of the trail(See pictures below)
9. **Plaques:** The Trail committee looked after taking orders from people who want to put plaques on the walking bridge in memory of loved ones or to recognize different events or milestones. In 2016 we received orders for 6 plaques. All of these plaques were placed on the bridge by Norm Anger.

The Trail Committee contributed approx.. 50 hours of volunteer time over the past year to help maintain and improve the community trail. The Trail committee does this because we think that the Community Trail and the park are important to the wellbeing of our community. There are few communities that have as extensive and beautiful a trail and park system as Wingham has. It is something that we should all take pride in and continue to maintain.

2017 Improvements/Maintenance Work:

The Trail Committee has identified the following work that they would like to assist with in 2017:

- a) Improve the Entrance Gardens through planting more shrubs and wildflowers
- b) Replant and maintain the Earl Hamilton Garden which is located at the entrance gardens.
- c) Identify what needs be done to stop the erosion around the embankment of the walking bridge on the Wescast side.
- d) Continue to remove the Himalayan Balsalm around the cedar Rail fence area
- e) Repair/replace rails along the cedar rail fence/plant more wild roses/trumpet flower
- f) Removal of trees that have split and need to be removed and replaced with new trees.
- g) Removal of the grass growing through the stone dust along the section of trail in the trailer park

SUMMARY:

We appreciate all of the work that the Works and Recreation Department staff put into the trail and park in 2016 and we look forward to working with them again in 2017.

