



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

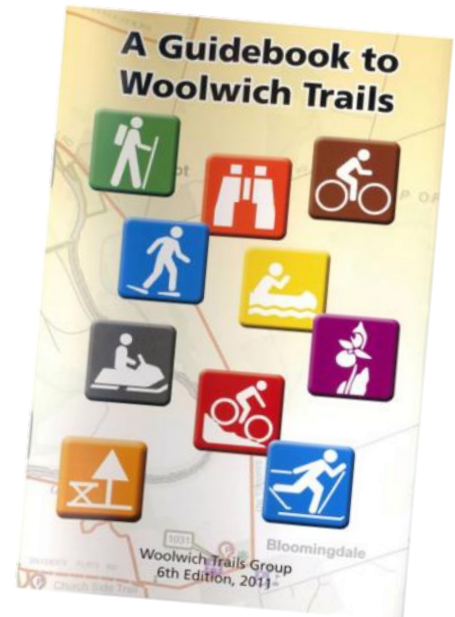
An ALL NEW Woolwich Trails Guidebook is Here!

The new 6th Edition of a *Guidebook to Woolwich Trails* is loaded with **NEW** features...

- Full colour mapping;
- Colour photos for each trail;
- New municipal emergency addresses and GPS locators for parking and access;
- Tips for safe hiking;
- Trail facts;
- Fun hiking activities

... And More!

Get your Guide and explore the great trails of Woolwich today!



What's New on the Trail?

You may have noticed new signs at trail access points throughout the Township. They are meant to help both trail users and emergency personnel in case of an emergency.

For trail users:

In an emergency situation whenever police, fire or ambulance assistance is required immediately, telephone 911. If you are unsure, call 911 and the communicator will help make a determination.



When calling 911, report your location stating the Municipal Emergency Number found on the green emergency signs posted at key trail access points. These numbers are also indicated in the **NEW Guidebook to Woolwich Trails** on each trail map and in the text under "Parking and Access".

Many Thanks...

Trails in Woolwich are the results of the efforts of many individuals, groups and private landowners. A **BIG THANK YOU** goes out to all those who continue to support trail maintenance and development in Woolwich Township. We couldn't do it without you!

Did you know?

The average variety store charges \$1.35 for a 500 ml bottle of water. Considering the average rate Waterloo Region residents currently pay for tap water, they could fill that same 500 ml bottle with tap water once a day for the next seven years for the cost of \$1.35.

*Source: Region of Waterloo Environews
October 2007*

What are those **red** stakes along the Trans Canada Trail? Look closely and you will see 75 NEW trees!

Blue Birds along the trail and throughout the countryside

The Eastern Blue Bird is a beautiful bird that trail users might see along the Kissing Bridge Trailway, Lions Lake Trail or Lions Ring Trail. Prior to 2001, the eastern blue bird had not been in this area for approximately 50 years. This was due to a change in the landscape: less pasture land and therefore fewer fence posts to nest in; plus increased use of sprays for crops. Thanks to the efforts of Elmira-native Ken Reger, the blue bird made a come-back in 2001.



In 1992 Ken decided to start a blue bird run with 30 houses to try and get the blue birds to return to the area. Blue birds mainly depend on man-made nest boxes. By 2001 Ken had his first blue birds: 7 birds fledged (flown and left the nest). By 2011 Ken had 345 boxes and 452 fledged. In 2011 Ken's run was 300 km long. He checks his boxes weekly and some twice weekly to remove maggots from the birds and check for other predators. Nest boxes must be cleaned out in the fall and February to rid the deer mice which also like to nest in the boxes. Ken's boxes are marked with a number and the letters KR.

Description:

Adults have a grey belly. Adult males are bright blue with red on top and have reddish brown throat and breasts. Adult females have lighter blue wings and tail, a brownish throat and breast and a grey crown and back.

TRAIL USERS' CODE

Many of the trails in Woolwich cross through private property. The kind consent of landowners has been received and is greatly appreciated. It is of utmost importance that trail users respect this privilege and follow the trail users' code.

- Hike only along marked routes and do not leave trail.
- Use stiles where provided. Do not climb fences.
- Close gates behind you.
- Leave flowers, plants and trees for others to enjoy.
- Remember, berries are food for wildlife too.
- Do not strip bark from trees.
- Keep dogs on a leash. Stoop and scoop.
- Do not walk across fields or disturb farm animals and wildlife.
- Camping and fires are not permitted.
- Leave nothing but footprints and take nothing but photographs.

Food:

Their favourite food is grasshoppers and crickets but they will also eat worms, insects and berries.

Habitat:

Blue birds love open spaces, cattle pastures, orchards, short grass and old gravel pits or hilly terrain and walking trails. They prefer these areas because of the short grass. If crops are sprayed near nest boxes, the young will be found dead in most instances. In Canada, they are found east of southern Ontario to the east coast.

Migration:

Blue birds are a migratory bird, leaving in late October to Northern Florida and returning in early March. Studies have found through banding, that one in eighteen young bluebirds make it back from migration and 18 of 19 adults make it back from migration.

Predators:

Blue bird predators include the English Sparrow, Wrens, cats and raccoons. They break the eggs and kill the adults in the nest.

Nesting:

They lay 4 to 6 eggs. The young hatch in 14 to 18 days and are flying in 3 weeks. They generally have up to 3 nests each summer, with the first batch helping to feed the second and the first and second batches helping feed the third.

April is Healthy Communities Month

Woolwich Healthy Communities is hosting the 7th annual Healthy Communities month in April. The group hosts a variety of activities including a local food event, green living and technology fair, clean-up day and hikes. The Woolwich Trails Group, a working group of Woolwich Healthy Communities, has the following hikes planned:

Sunday April 29, 2 pm: 2 hour birding hike on the Healthy Valley/Trans Canada Trail in St. Jacobs

Join Mark Bauman for birding and hiking. Meet at the kiosk at the trail entrance behind the fire station in St. Jacobs. Take King St. N. to Albert St. Turn right or east on Albert St. and continue to the kiosk at the back of the parking lot located at 35 Albert St. E.

Sunday May 6: 2 hour hike on the Hopewell Trail in Breslau

Join Lisa to explore the new Hopewell Trail in Breslau. Please dress for possible wet, rainy weather. Meet Lisa in the parking lot near the mill pond on Woolwich St., at the corner of Woolwich St. and Victoria St.

Those interested in hikes are asked to contact Paul Miller at 519 664-3643 to confirm meeting times and locations.

For more information: Log onto www.healthywoolwich.org