

ELBOW LAKE UPDATE: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Summer 2016 Newsletter of the ELEEC

Upcoming Public Events

Visit our website for details or to register: elbowlakecentre.ca

July

Exploring & Understanding Moths



Imperial Moth

Invasive Species Eradication using the Extractigator™

August

Nocturnal Life: Animals at Night

October

Stand Up Paddleboard with Kaspr Boards

Manager's Message

Summer is upon us, and things at ELEEC are running smoothly. Our team this season has been the largest ever, and what a great compliment of skills from interns Jordan and Sofie (outreach), Emily (GIS), David (IT) and Al (natural heritage collection, housekeeping) – combined, their knowledge and input toward various outreach projects is leading up to some high-quality output. From outreach programs to social media, new app stations and interpretive material, we invite you to enjoy our latest offerings in environmental education.



Environmental Outreach Update

Spring 2016 kicked off with a successful *Stay Under the Shooting Stars* to celebrate the Eta Aquarids in early May. Walt Sepic (Firefly Adventures) returned with an arsenal of mind-blowing facts about our universe, while Sofie and Emily shared the mind-bending stories behind the spring constellations. Unlike last year, the skies cooperated, giving participants stunning views of Jupiter through the telescope. Meteors were a plenty!

Funding from the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area purchased an Ekman dredge and repaired nine microscopes to greatly enhance the Grade 9 Limnology program, while Grade 11/12's obtained tree cores using a Hagloff borer in our new Dendrology program.



Community Foundation
for Kingston & Area

The ELEEC booth at the annual QUBS Open House was immensely popular!

Manager Carolyn and Outreach & Stewardship Intern Sofie at Open House



Our calendar is being populated with a variety of outreach events geared at various ages and interests (see sidebar). Programs are always free, and we invite participants of evening events to rent a cabin and stay overnight!

Warm Welcome: Senior Manager

In June, Sonia Nobrega became our new Senior Manager, overseeing management across both campuses. An alumna of the Biology Department who most recently worked in Research Services at Queen's, Sonia brings a wealth of experience to her new position. *Welcome to the QUBS team!*

Invasive Species Demonstration Site

We continue our grant-funded partnership with the Frontenac Stewardship Foundation (FSF) to educate the public about harmful invasive species and to encourage eradication efforts.

This spring, Justin White (Ducks Unlimited Canada) helped deliver invasive species programming to visiting Grade 9 students in support of their "Sustainable Ecosystems" unit. Justin shared his experiences with European Water Chestnut eradication from Wolfe Island, a presentation that Jordan supplemented with a practical activity to emphasize features that make invasive plants successful and demonstrate the incredible time and effort involved in controlling such species once they have become established. In total, 127 students and 12 teachers contributed 90 minutes of hand-pulling invasive periwinkle, resulting in the removal of over 900 L of this groundcover plant – and many lessons learned. Unfortunately, Jordan has now moved on to another job, and we wish him well as he pursues his career with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Ottawa.

As we develop the ELEEC into a community resource hub and the Elbow Lake property into a demonstration site for invasive species eradication, we are excited to try out a new shrub-removal tool: **Join volunteers Colin and Justin on Sunday, July 24 and try out the Extractigator®**, on loan to the ELEEC by the Royal Botanical Gardens. **Demonstrations will take place on the hour, from 10 am to 3 pm.**

The bulk of our invasive species eradication efforts will happen at Volunteer Work Bee events this fall – stay tuned for dates and details.



Inventor Shawn Taylor stands by his Extractigator!



Social Media Expansion!

Until recently, the ELEEC had a limited presence in social media. Our Twitter site, established in February 2015, currently has 98 followers and is the primary source of current news about ELEEC. Now, thanks to new ELEEC volunteer and web developer/IT specialist Debbie Fitzerman (DFC Consulting) we are also on Facebook! An Instagram feed has also been set up.



Follow us on Twitter! Like us on Facebook! Share your Elbow Lake photo memories! All this **@ElbowLakeEEC**!

New contributions by Emily and Sofie to QUBS' Opinicon Natural History blog will be posted soon:
<https://opinicon.wordpress.com/>

Employment Opportunities

Interested in working for QUBS? Keep an eye open for two positions soon to be posted on the Queen's University website: The **Opinicon Manager** will oversee operations at our research headquarters, while the **Outreach & Teaching Coordinator** will be dedicated to leading and expanding our environmental outreach programs at both campuses.

Friends of Elbow Lake

After a brief hiatus, the lead proponents for a "Friends of Elbow Lake" group have resumed efforts to establish a more organized group to coordinate various tasks in assistance of ELEEC.

By end of summer, volunteers should be able to register to the Friends website, where they will then have access to an activity calendar from which they can propose to lead a designated task or assist another volunteer in their chosen task. With this system, the Elbow Lake Manager and other senior staff can liaise with task leaders to ensure access to the facility and any necessary equipment, while the leader will take responsibility for coordinating volunteers and accomplishing the work.

There are four core areas where assistance is regularly needed, and the Friends of Elbow Lake will help take the lead in three of these areas: Stewardship, Biomonitoring, and Education/Outreach. Volunteers wishing to offer administrative assistance (e.g., writing grant proposals, providing web/IT support, advertising and promotions) will continue to work directly with the Elbow Lake Manager on these initiatives.



Top: Dave (hidden) and Laurie trim a cabin with tin coil.
Left: Richard has finished putting up the Trailhead sign.
Right: Gillian scrubs a cabin floor.



Something for everyone, and an emphasis on camaraderie and team-building. We really hope you can join us!



You Asked... We Answer:

Q: Can we rent canoes at ELEEC and enjoy the waterfront this summer?

A: Visitors to Elbow Lake are fortunate to experience a relatively pristine body of water, free of harmful Zebra Mussels and unsightly algal blooms. Overnight guests receive complimentary use of all waterfront amenities, including a sandy beach and marked swimming area, floating raft, and access to our fleet of nine fully-equipped canoes. The waterfront is occasionally available to smaller, informal groups and individual guests, subject to its use by larger, organized groups and Eco-Adventure Camp. The Day Use fee, which also includes on-site parking and indoor space, is \$8/person. Canoes are not available for non-paying visitors, and use of the waterfront is generally not permitted.