

ELBOW LAKE UPDATE: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Winter/Spring 2016 Newsletter of the ELEEC

Upcoming Public Events

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

May

*Stay Under the
Shooting Stars*

Community Dinner

June

*A Food and Farm
Family Retreat*

July

*Understanding &
Exploring Moths*



*Bass Fishing for
Women Weekend –
SOLD OUT*

August

*Bass Fishing for
Women Weekend*

**Check the website
frequently for
program updates!**

Manager's Message

Happy Spring! The landscape is only now beginning to look different than it did back in December when I began working on this newsletter, intending to write a Winter edition. The biggest challenge at QUBS right now is that we are terribly short-staffed – it's more than enough to simply accomplish the basics. However, this is an exciting time as we build a new, larger team that will soon include more full-time staff to support both the Opinicon and Elbow Lake campuses. Public outreach, in particular, is set to greatly expand in the near future, thanks to partnerships with the Frontenac Stewardship Foundation (FSF) and Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). Read on to learn about exciting educational and environmental initiatives coming our way this season.



Highlights of the 2015 Season

Grand Opening of the new 100-ft. footbridge at the Red Trail beaver pond and official release of the *Elbow Lake Trail Guide* interpretive app, and three new bridges on the Orange Trail.

Eco-Adventure Camp (EAC) welcomed 10 youth to this year's Leader-in-Training (LIT) program and one previous LIT, now in her 1st year of study at Queen's University, joined the EAC team as a Counsellor!

Funding from the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area (CFKA) and Kingston Employment and Youth Services (KEYS) supported a full-time, 5-month Environmental Outreach Assistant.

Full house in attendance at the Invasive Species seminar, co-hosted with the FSF and funded by CFKA.

Repeat visits from all previous high school clients, plus two additional schools visiting; increased visitation by Queen's University groups.

New roof on Cabin 5, protective tin coil on cabins 6 & 8, and deck improvements at Day Lodge.

Our volunteers established a "Frontenac" Christmas Bird Count that includes the Elbow Lake property within the survey area.

2016 QUBS Calendars Still Available!

Show your support for the Queen's University Biological Station while enjoying a stunning array of photographs taken across our 3,500 ha land base, and discover new facts about scientists who have made important contributions to conservation biology. *Calendars now only \$10!*

TD FEF Provides \$11,800 to Environmental Outreach

We are thrilled to announce that TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) is supporting several outreach projects at ELEEC through 2016. First and foremost, this grant will ensure sufficient staff to deliver our spring and fall high school programs on Biodiversity and Sustainable Ecosystems. To complement these fields of study, and to encourage self-use visitors to explore the natural world, we will be developing a pond-dipping and aquatic ecology interpretive station by the Red Trail Bridge and installing dichotomous key wheels for identifying the different species of coniferous trees found near the Pavilion. TD FEF is also funding teaching equipment, such as a digital microscope.

Sofie Hemprich, Outreach and Stewardship Intern with ELEEC, and Jordan Bell, a Land Conservation Technician with NCC, will lead these exciting initiatives. David Lougheed is returning to enhance the *Elbow Lake Trail Guide* app with current research findings and more interpretive stations, and possibly develop a similar app for interpreting features of interest at Opinicon campus.



**TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**



Invasive Species Demonstration Site

Last spring, through our partnership with the FSF, we obtained funding from CFKA toward an Invasive Species Demonstration Site on the Elbow Lake property. More broadly, this project will train and empower landowners and Frontenac County residents to eradicate harmful invasive species, while establishing ELEEC as a resource hub for the community.



The project kicked off April 10 – also the start of National Volunteer Week! – when 13 volunteers received free chainsaw training as preparation to safely manage ash trees killed by the Emerald Ash Borer, as well as large woody invasives such as mature European Buckthorn. Providing our volunteers with a useful skill that will serve them beyond the scope of the project was also our way of giving back to the community.

Jordan Bell will coordinate volunteer efforts to eradicate invasive species from the local landscape, focusing on NCC properties within the Frontenac Arch Natural Area. *Interested in getting involved? All ages welcome!*



Community Foundation
for Kingston & Area

Contact Jordan by phone at 613-353-7968 or e-mail outreach.eleec@gmail.com.

Spring Community Dinner

The ELEEC is proud to be a part of the local community. Our wonderful neighbours have welcomed staff and assisted the facility in many ways, from promotions, to Citizen Science, stewardship and maintenance. We are planning a Community Dinner to show our appreciation for your support. *Please set aside Thursday, May 19 and plan to join us!*

Orange Trail Bridges

Logistics were challenging, but with help from 16 hard-working volunteers to transport materials and assist with construction, we succeeded in building three new boardwalks along our remote Orange Trail. These new structures will help mitigate water crossings at streams near beaver ponds, improving access to two *Elbow Lake Trail Guide* app stations near Spectacle Lake.



Randy Baldwin was foreman, and four summer staff from QUBS also assisted. We are grateful to the County of Frontenac and the National Trails Coalition (via the Frontenac Arch Biosphere) for project funding.



QUBS is Growing!

On November 27, 2015, we celebrated Frank Phelan's dynamic and productive 40-year career as Manager of QUBS. Our Opinicon campus and 3,500+ ha land base wouldn't be what they are now without Frank's hard work and vision, and we thank him for this legacy.

Interested in working for QUBS?

QUBS is currently hiring a **Senior Manager** to oversee management of both campuses of the research station, after which we will hire an **Opinicon Manager** to specifically oversee operations at our research headquarters.

Eco-Adventure Camp is seeking a male **Camp Counselor** to join their team this summer. Lifeguard Certification is an asset. Apply to director@ecoadventurecamp.ca.

We are also excited to announce that the Lawson Foundation will be supporting an **Outreach & Teaching Coordinator**. This four-year position will dedicate staff to leading and expanding our outreach programs – primarily via ELEEC – and assist with teaching university field courses at both sites.

You Asked... We Answer:

Q: I am interested in volunteering at ELEEC. What is there to do, and how can I get involved?

A: ELEEC's success depends enormously on the generosity of our volunteers. We have four core areas where assistance is regularly needed: Administration (e.g., social media, grant-writing), Biomonitoring (e.g., Citizen Science), Stewardship (e.g., trail maintenance, demolition/construction, grounds-keeping), and Education/Outreach (e.g., teaching, hosting displays at community events). Many of our volunteers' interests and duties overlap these areas. We are still in the process of developing the Friends of Elbow Lake to coordinate various tasks and projects. In the interim, please contact the Elbow Lake Manager by e-mail at carolyn.bonta@queensu.ca or by phone at 613-353-7968 to express your interest and become involved. We look forward to hearing from you!