

ELBOW LAKE UPDATE: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Spring 2015 Newsletter of the ELEEC

Upcoming Public Events

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

May

“Secrets of Stealth & Silence” – Owl Program

Spring Work Bee

Elbow Lake Open House

June

“Dispatches from the Field” – Session 1

Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network interpretive trail hike

QUBS Open House

July

“Bass Fishing for Women Weekend”

“Dispatches from the Field” – Session 2

August

“Night Under the Shooting Stars”

Invasive Species seminar

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Manager’s Message

The Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre is here for our community, and we strive to provide outreach that is current, relevant and of broad public interest. I kept postponing this newsletter as new events and programs were confirmed – exciting leads and opportunities seemed to present themselves every day! Hopefully something in our events roster appeals to you, your family, or your group. As always, we encourage input from the community on what you want to learn about and experience at the ELEEC. This summer, QUBS welcomes students Dara, Emily and Josh, who are already looking forward to delivering environmental programs and representing ELEEC at community events. See you there,



Spring Work Bee – Saturday, May 2

From outreach to maintenance, to housekeeping and IT, skilled volunteers forms the backbone of ELEEC. While many dedicated individuals contribute time year-round, twice a year we combine forces in a formal Work Bee.



Our amazing Spring 2014 volunteer crew!

The 2014 Spring Work Bee is Saturday, May 2 from 10 am to 3 pm.

On the agenda:

- ✓ “Rafting” bridge materials across the lake;
- ✓ Constructing ramps at the new footbridge;
- ✓ Wiping down FPD’s and assembling equipment;
- ✓ Spring-cleaning cabins.

To further entice you, on **Friday, May 1** we are presenting **“Secrets of Stealth and Silence”**, an evening owl program. Why not bring the whole family and stay overnight? Accommodation is complimentary for Work Bee volunteers! Spring at Elbow Lake is a great time for kids to go exploring while adults are occupied with lending their hands to ELEEC.



Elbow Lake Open House – May 24

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our annual Open House on Sunday, May 24, from 10 am to 3 pm! Take part in guided nature hikes, paddles and facility tours, or register for outreach programs, including Eco-Adventure Camp. Celebrate the Grand Opening of the new footbridge on the Red Trail and be among the first to try out our new *Interpretive Trail Guide* app!

Elbow Lake Interpretive Trail Guide App

NEW

Providing educational teachings in biodiversity conservation to the community is one of the mandates of the ELEEC. Done predominantly through our programs, we are working toward a selection of self-guided offerings for our visitors.

Funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has supported the development of an exciting new outreach tool: The *Elbow Lake Interpretive Trail Guide* app. Not simply an electronic trail brochure, this app will introduce visitors to a selection of interesting features of the Elbow Lake property, complete with video, audio and even a quiz to test your knowledge!

Many thanks to David Lougheed, our Trail Steward & App Designer, for his skill, knowledge and dedication to this project.

Bring your smartphone or tablet to Open House and download the app (or borrow an iPad from ELEEC) to be among the first to try this revolutionary new product.



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Public Outreach Events

Many opportunities for environmental education exist in our community, but ELEEC programs are unique in that we incorporate *real* researchers doing *real science right here at QUBS*.

This year, Queen's University graduate students from the Department of Biology have stepped forward to enhance ELEEC programming with hands-on workshops for high school classes and a selection of public events that is sure to appeal to all ages. Who better to deliver these programs than those most passionate and devoted to the topic?

Secondary students can now assemble mist nests, probe through living soils, investigate relationships between plants and pollinators, measure frog morphometrics... and more!

Dispatches from the Field (June 5 and July 12) is sure to enlighten and inspire any youth or young adults considering an environmental career path.

And stay tuned for a unique art workshop that engages some unlikely subjects... and will certainly change your perspective on nature!

Many thanks to the Queen's BioGrads for sharing their skills and expertise with the ELEEC.

You Asked... We Answer:

Q: Why can't we bring our personal canoes and kayaks to paddle on Elbow Lake?

A: We are *very* strict on the rule that no outside boats, paddles or equipment be brought onto Elbow Lake – and for a very good reason! So far, Elbow Lake has remained free of the harmful invasive, non-native species that are increasingly threatening our native aquatic habitats. Because many foreign invaders spread from lake to lake by hitch-hiking on boats, the ELEEC maintains a fleet of canoes intended for visitor use on Elbow Lake – *and Elbow Lake only!* We do this to protect Elbow Lake.

Learn more about Invasive Species by attending our upcoming seminar in late August!