

ELBOW LAKE UPDATE: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Winter 2015 Newsletter of the ELEEC

Upcoming Public Events

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

Winter

Guided evening
snowshoe hikes

April

Spring Work Bee

May

Open House &
Footbridge Grand
Opening

July

Bass Fishing for
Women Weekend

August

Night Under the
Shooting Stars

Check the website
frequently for
program updates!



Manager's Message

Heading into ELEEC's 3rd full operating season, one can feel the momentum picking up: The community has discovered this wonderful facility and is beginning to tap into its potential. It seems like every day brings new interest, stimulating partnerships, and creative ideas – surely forecasting an exciting year ahead! This inaugural newsletter shares accomplishments from the past year, and hopes to entice you to attend some of the events planned for 2015. Future editions will hopefully keep you informed on what is happening at your ELEEC!



Highlights of the 2014 Season



Revenue from cabin/facility rental and day use doubled.

Visitor use tripled, with 3,000 user-days estimated.

Eco-Adventure Camp attendance stable, despite more restrictive age allowance; popular Leader-in-Training program continued.

Additional staff hired: Outreach & Stewardship Intern (May – August), Trail Steward (contract), Housekeeper (July – Sept.).

Increasing volunteerism, with efforts to establish a “Friends of Elbow Lake”.

New logo designed pro-bono by local graphic artist Nancy McRae.

Grant funding to support trail improvements: Interpretive Trail App, new 100-ft. footbridge at the beaver pond, educational signage.

WiFi service installed at the Pavilion.

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

New roofs on cabins 3 & 8; protective tin coil on cabins 9 & 5.

Expanded our watercraft fleet by six safety-equipped aluminum canoes!

Projects initiated for long-term monitoring of climate, loons, frogs and nocturnal migrating warblers, thrushes and sparrows.

2015 QUBS Calendars Still Available!

It's not too late to support the Queen's University Biological Station, enjoy a stunning array of photographs taken on our 3,500 ha land base, and discover the birthdays of scientists who have made important contributions to conservation biology. *Get your calendar today for only \$10!*

Red Trail Footbridge

No more soaked feet while crossing the beaver pond! Thanks to a design donated by Bert Korporaal (Assistant Superintendent of nearby Frontenac Provincial Park), and funding from the Township of South Frontenac and the County of Frontenac, the old floating boardwalk is out and a solid new footbridge is in! We are also grateful for the work of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere's trail crew, who suffered many a cold November day to build our new bridge. Ramps will be installed at either end of the structure in spring of 2015. Also in progress are an interpretive trail app and educational signage, courtesy of funding from TD Friends of the Environment, to enhance the visitor's knowledge and appreciation of the natural and cultural features of the Elbow Lake property.



TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation



Outreach Activities

Since November 2013, QUBS has been without an Outreach Coordinator. While we hope to fill this vacancy in the upcoming year, existing staff is hard at work developing a complement of programming to suit a variety of interests and backgrounds. First and foremost is curriculum-based programming for late fall, winter and early spring – underutilized times of year at ELEEC, despite the many hidden wonders of Canada's biodiversity in the cooler seasons.



We are also building our public outreach events, particularly those which would welcome families to visit the ELEEC as part of a package deal, enabling participation in programming as part of an overnight stay.

You Asked... We Answer:

Q: Can I bring my family to hike the trails?

A: Yes, with advance permission from the Manager. Registering your visit is important : It allows us to communicate important information , such as facility rules, or trails to avoid due to research activity; it eliminates conflict with private bookings on occasions when outside visitors are not permitted; and it also allows us track visitors use, which is extremely important in securing funding. There is no fee for walk-in visitors (although a donation would be appreciated) but the self-use fees apply for visitors requiring use of parking, washroom or other indoor amenities.

Q: My organization is neither environmental or educational, but we'd love to hold a workshop, meeting or corporate retreat at Elbow Lake – is this possible?

A: Of course! While the ELEEC's facilities are not intended for private individual recreational use, we do accept bookings from organizations and would be happy to host your next function – and even offer an environmental workshop or guided nature walk for your group.