

# Pathways Newsletter



The Pathways for People newsletter is published twice a year and shares trail stories and updates, events and local news on infrastructure work happening across Norfolk County

## In this issue..

### Survey Says!

Submitted by Laura Goyette

Page 2-4

### Waterford Heritage Trail- Celebrating 25 Years in 2027!

Submitted by Frank Woodcock

Page 5

### About the Lynn Valley Trail

Submitted by Jan Dean

Page 6-7

### A Reminder for All Trail Users

Submitted by David Drobitch

Page 7

### Upcoming Fall Walk

Submitted by Nida Hafiz-Zadeh

Page 8

### Fall Walk Poster

Page 9



**Pathways for People**  
NORFOLK



# Pathways Newsletter

## SURVEY SAYS!

### PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Submitted by Laura Goyette  
Grand Erie Public Health

This past spring, Pathways for People launched the “Pathways to Progress” community survey to seek input on ways to improve walking, biking, rolling and connectivity in Norfolk County. Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide their insight!

### Who Participated?

- 301 people who either lived, worked or played in Norfolk County responded to the survey
- Most (78.7%) respondents walked, biked or rolled either daily or regularly
- The majority of respondents lived in a town (67.1%), followed by a rural setting (20.6%) or a hamlet or village (11.3%)

### Findings

- Exercise, recreation and accessing parks and/or trails were listed as the top 3 reasons for walking, biking or rolling in Norfolk County
- Safety concerns, traffic speed/volume, and lack of infrastructure were identified as the top 3 reasons that prevented respondents from biking or rolling more often
- 82.7% of respondents thought it was somewhat or extremely important to the community to invest in active transportation
- 63.5% of respondents were in support of public funding for sidewalks, trails and active transportation infrastructure, while 5.0% were not in support and 31.6% were unsure or wanted more information

The most selected options when asked what the top area of focus should be in the community were:

- Maintenance of existing infrastructure (21.3%)
- Expanding trail networks (18.3%) and
- Improving accessibility for all ages and abilities (15.3%)



# Pathways Newsletter

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## Sidewalks

The average rating of the current sidewalk network in Norfolk County was 3.3 (1 being very poor and 5 being excellent).



The 3 top responses when asked what sidewalk improvements should be prioritized were:

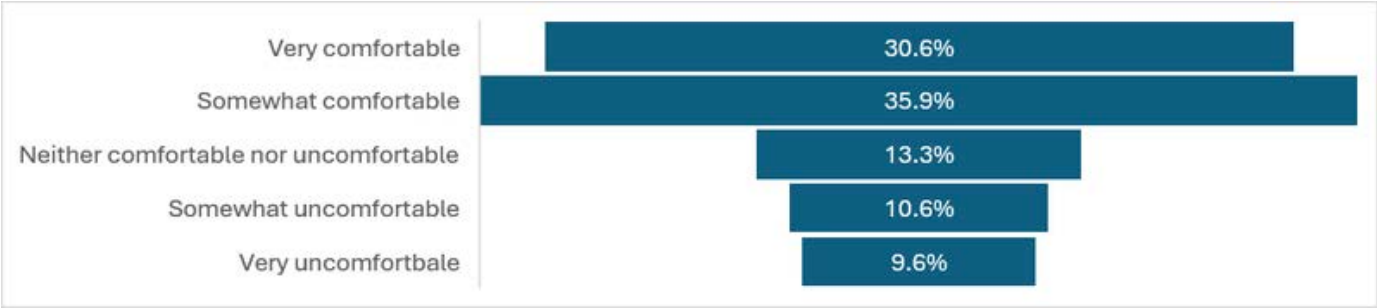
- 1.) Filling sidewalk gaps
- 2.) New sidewalks in areas without them, and
- 3.) Wider sidewalks

## Trails

The most common responses when asked what trail improvements should be prioritized were:

- 1.) Trail expansions/connectivity
- 2.) Safety measures on trails (e.g. patrol)
- 3.) Rest areas/benches, and
- 4.) Lighting

When asked how comfortable respondents felt using trails in Norfolk County, 66.4% felt either somewhat or very comfortable.



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# Pathways Newsletter

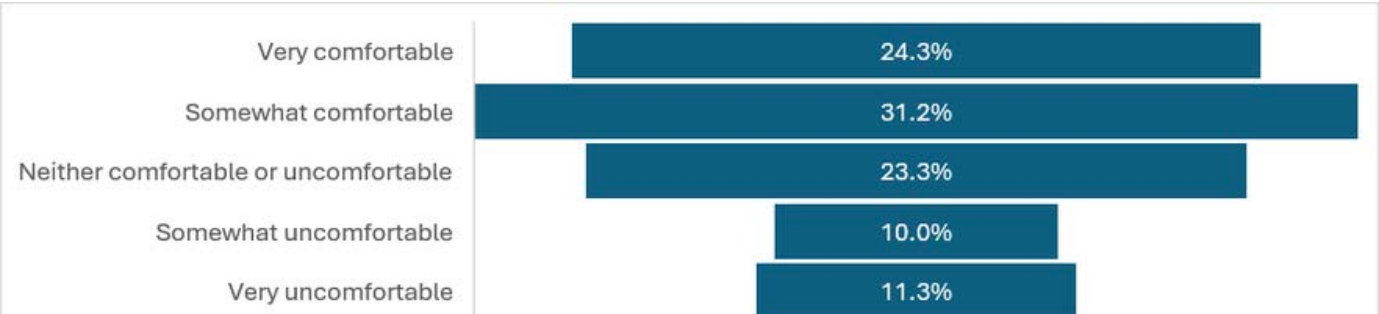
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## Biking

The 3 top responses when asked what bike-related improvements should be prioritized were:

- 1.) Paved shoulders
- 2.) Protected bike lanes, and
- 3.) Shared-use paths/multi-use paths

When asked how comfortable respondents felt biking in Norfolk County, 55.5% felt either somewhat or very comfortable.



When asked what activities Pathways for People should focus on, volunteer clean-up days, community education campaigns and group walks/rides were selected most often.

Pathways for People would again like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in the “Pathways to Progress” community survey. Your responses will help shape the work this group does in the upcoming years!



# Pathways Newsletter

## **WATERFORD HERITAGE TRAIL- CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN 2027!**

Submitted by Frank Woodcock

Waterford Heritage Trail Association

We are pleased to announce the Waterford Heritage Trail will be celebrating 25 years of trail building in 2027. In 2001, we originated at a meeting in Waterford called by Gord Pennington of the Lynn Valley Trail. A group of citizens met and decided to pursue starting a Waterford Trail. We were able to lease the old Simcoe to Waterford right of way of the abandoned Lake Erie and Northern rail line from the Province. In 2002, we were incorporated as the Waterford Heritage Trail Association and soon after in 2023, we became a Registered Charity. From the original lease of a 6.2 km trail, we grew over the next 25 years into a 24 km trail stretching to Brant County, around the Waterford Ponds and over to Highway 24. We include 4 bridges, a fitness trail and 14 km of paved trail.

As you can see it has been a busy 25 years which would not have been possible without the support of the Greater Waterford Community, our trail sponsors, members, volunteers, the Federal and Provincial governments, Norfolk County and the numerous donors who have supported our various projects when we have needed their help.

To celebrate this accomplishment and kickstart another prosperous 25 years we have been planning. We will have interpretive trail walks ranging from RR legacy to flora and fauna to invasive species to bike rides to scavenger hunts. We will have 50/50 tickets, a photography contest, T-shirts, a picnic or two, a culminating dinner at the Waterford Legion and anything else we create in the interval. Of course, we are open to suggestions and callout to the Community to come forward to plan and help with our celebratory year. Contact us at [waterfordheritagetrail@yahoo.ca](mailto:waterfordheritagetrail@yahoo.ca).

Cheers to you and cheers to us!



# Pathways Newsletter

## ABOUT THE LYNN VALLEY TRAIL

Submitted by Jan Dean  
Lynn Valley Trail Association (LVTA)

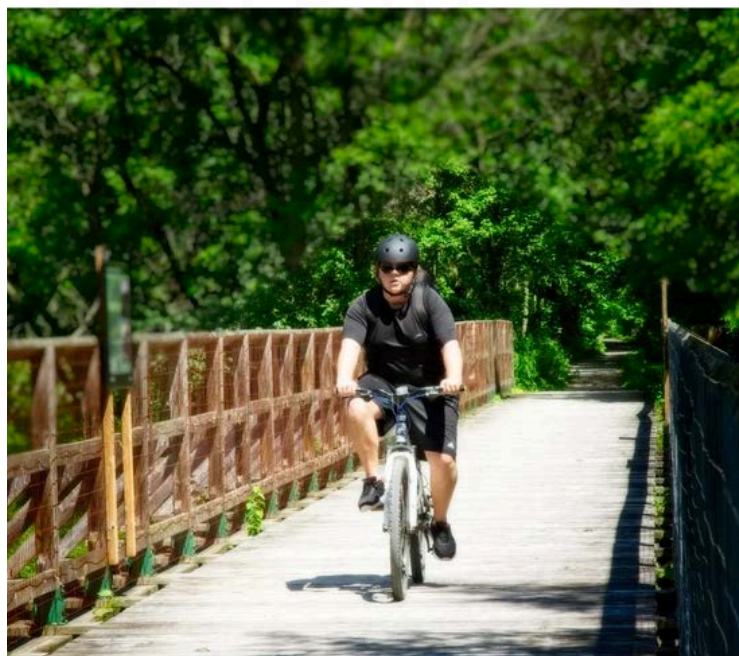
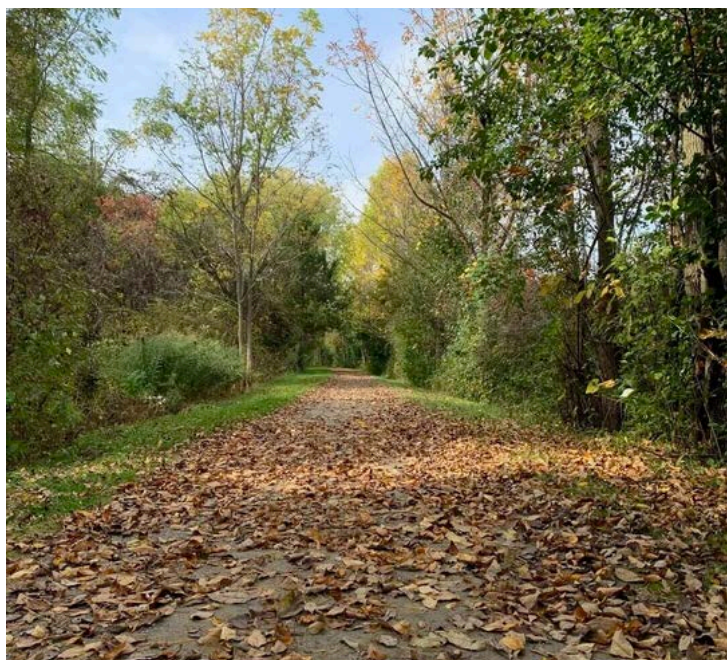
The Lynn Valley Trail is a 10 km path that joins Simcoe with Port Dover. For over 100 years it was a CNR line. After it was abandoned in 1988 a group of volunteers formed the Lynn Valley Trail Association (LVTA) to preserve the transportation corridor as a trail for public use.

The corridor is flat and connects a series of different habitats including woodlands, wetlands and grasslands bordered by the river and agricultural land. The effort was and remains volunteer-driven and uses LVTA memberships and donations to fund resurfacing on the trail, signage and maintenance.

The County has taken over responsibility for the bridges on the trail. Some engineering assessments done this summer on the Burt and Robinson bridges will provide a range of options for their future. Those results will be made public this fall.

More than anything the Lynn Valley Trail is about connections. The trail connects hikers, bikers and nature lovers to the trail and to each other.

Through a website and social media, the LVTA works to keep trail users alert to what's happening on the trail and a way for users to let others know about issues on the trail.



# Pathways Newsletter

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As the Lynn Valley Trail becomes more popular, there is a growing need to educate users about trail etiquette.

- It is everyone's responsibility to travel the trail leaving nothing but footprints and taking nothing but photos.
- Vandalism and litter are dealt with by volunteers. They don't need more work.
- Technology has increased tensions about cyclists on trails through the proliferation of e-bikes, e-scooters and their increased speed.
- Only pedal-assisted e-bikes are allowed on the trail.
- Bikes must alert pedestrians to their approach and be aware that walkers have right of way.
- All users are expected to be civil and polite.
- Cooler temperatures and autumn colours make fall one of the best times of the year on the trail.

## A REMINDER FOR ALL TRAIL USERS

Submitted by David Drobitch  
Norfolk County

A friendly reminder from the Norfolk County Trails department:

- Trails are mixed-use but faster, wheeled trail users are reminded that pedestrians have the right-of-way. Good trail etiquette does not include a "get out of my way" attitude.
- When approaching to pass a pedestrian never assume they can see or hear you - because there are those who can't.
- When passing, approach and pass cautiously. Good trail users will exchange a friendly greeting. This helps ensure everyone is aware of each other - and it's just the friendly thing to do.
- Pedestrians are encouraged to visibly show (a raised hand) or exchange a greeting to indicate that they are aware of the approaching rider.
- Trails are meant for everyone to enjoy, and it's up to all trail users to help foster that.



# Pathways Newsletter

## UPCOMING PATHWAYS EVENTS

Submitted by Nida Hafiz-Zadeh  
Grand Erie Public Health

Explore with Norfolk Pathways for People – Join Our Upcoming Event!

Norfolk Pathways for People is excited to invite community members of all ages to join us for a fall afternoon event. Come get outside, enjoy the fall scenery, and spend time connecting with others in the community. Mark your calendars and bring a friend!

### Fall Walk at Birds Canada

Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 2–4pm

Location: 115 Front Rd, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0

CHECK  
OUT OUR  
POSTER ON  
PAGE 9!

Join us for a relaxing bird-watching walk at Birds Canada in Port Rowan and experience the beauty of the fall migration season.

Come explore one of Canada's renowned birding and biodiversity areas while connecting with neighbours and enjoying the outdoors. Whether you're a regular walker or are simply looking for a reason to get outside this fall, this event is a great way to get moving, enjoy the scenery, and discover one of Norfolk County's beautiful natural spaces.

We hope to see you there!



# Pathways Newsletter

## FALL WALK POSTER



# Bird-Watching Trail Walk





**Sunday,  
Oct. 25, 2026**  
from 2 to 4 p.m.



**Birds Canada**  
**115 Front Road, Port  
Rowan, ON**  
Meet in front of building

**Join us for a guided 4 km bird-watching trail walk to enjoy the fall migration in one of the best birding spots and biodiversity areas in Canada!**

### All are welcome!

- Accessible washrooms available
- Rain or shine
- Free (plus free parking onsite)
- No registration required
- Binoculars recommended but not required



**Questions?** Contact Marija Da Costa

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